

JPRS-TEP-94-009

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JPRS Report

Epidemiology

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Poland, Belarus To Cooperate in Fighting AIDS, Other Dangerous Diseases

LD2903152494 Warsaw PAP in Polish 1406 GMT
29 Mar 94

[Excerpts] Warsaw, 29 Mar—Poland and Belarus want to cooperate in preventing and combating particularly dangerous contagious diseases, including the HIV-AIDS epidemic, journalists were told today at the outset of a four-day Polish-Belarus working conference in Warsaw.

The conference is attended by representatives of the Belarus Ministry of Health and the five largest cities of this state in charge of health care organizations, blood donation, and epidemiology. [passage omitted]

In Belarus there have been 102 recorded cases of HIV-positive people, including seven children. Of those 102, 10 already are suffering from AIDS. Seventy percent of all cases are located in Minsk. According to Polish doctors, Belarus is at the stage of the AIDS epidemic where Poland was 6-7 years ago.

According to the State Institute of Hygiene there were 2,935 recorded cases of HIV-positive people by the end of February [1994]. Of those, 175 persons contracted AIDS and 98 have already died. These are only estimates. Dr. Krzysztof Dziubinski, adviser to the minister of health, maintains that a growing trend can be observed.

As far as diphtheria is concerned, there were 120 cases recorded in Belarus last year, while there were only 10 in Poland. Last year Belarus purchased Polish anti-diphtheria vaccine. It is going to test it and use it in preventive treatment.

Icelandic Firm To Produce Pharmaceuticals With Lithuania

94P20490Y Reykjavik NEWS FROM ICELAND
in English Feb 94 p B 4

[Unattributed article: "Center Spurs Trade With Lithuania"]

[Excerpts] The Iceland-Lithuania Friendship Society has set up a new communications center in Vilnius in the hope of spurring commercial activity between Iceland and the Baltic nation. [passage omitted]

Health firm Islenska Heilsufelagid is on the cusp of starting up production of pharmaceutical drugs in cooperation with the University of Vilnius. [passage omitted]

Tallinn Surgery Blamed for Hepatitis C Among Finns

94WE0190A Helsinki HUFVUDSTADSBLADET
in Swedish 12 Feb 94 p 8

[Article by Mardy Strom: "Bypass Operations in Tallinn Have Legal Consequences"]

[Text] Over 60 percent of the heart patients who went to Tallinn back when there was a long waiting list for bypass surgery in Finland have been infected with hepatitis C.

A couple of patients will soon take the matter to court. They are suing the Heart Disease Association, which assured them that it was safe to have bypass surgery done in Tallinn.

Jyrki Olkinuora, who has been a specialist at the Heart Disease Association since the spring of 1990, says that suspicions regarding contaminated blood arose in the summer of 1990. That led to an agreement between the hospital doing the operations in Tallinn, the Blood Bank, and the Heart Disease Association. The agreement stipulated that only Finnish blood products would be used in operations thereafter.

The last group of four patients was sent to Tallinn by the Heart Disease Association in the fall of that same year, he says. Why patients in that group were also infected is a mystery.

"I feel that the infection came from local plasma products," says Olkinuora. He considers that to be malpractice.

He says that unfortunately, Finnish law does not provide compensation for that kind of malpractice if the operating surgeons are not covered by our insurance system.

About 100 Patients

Between 1988 and 1990, nearly 100 patients underwent bypass surgery in Tallinn. There was also a period when bypass surgery on Finns was performed in Spain, England, and the United States. HUFVUDSTADSBLADET has learned that hepatitis C was a problem only in Tallinn. [passage omitted]

Bypass patients who were operated on in Finland have also been infected with hepatitis C. A survey of 685 such patients at all the university hospital centers from December 1987 through November 1988 detected at least nine cases. Since every patient being operated on received an average of 12 units of blood, hepatitis C is estimated to have been present in one out of every 1,000 bags of Finnish blood at that time. That is a small percentage from the international standpoint.

Blood Tested Since 1990

Although the virus was isolated in 1989, a long time passed before it was possible to detect hepatitis C in blood. The Finnish Red Cross blood bank was one of the first in the world to begin the first tests in April 1990. Since then the blood bank has systematically tested all blood for the presence of hepatitis C, and testing methods have been refined.

Sweden did not follow our example until about a year later.

So far, no studies have been made to determine how serious the liver damage caused by hepatitis C has been in Finland.

Zambian Foreign Minister Visits Cuban Health Ministry

*FL3003222794 Havana Radio Reloj Network
in Spanish 2030 GMT 30 Mar 94*

[Text] Zambian Foreign Minister Remmy Kaindu Heli Mushota today visited the Public Health Ministry where Cuban Health Minister Julio Teja Perez and other officials briefed him extensively on the work of the Ministry.

The two ministers discussed the possibility of increasing current medical cooperation and the mutual hope of

seeing such cooperation increase, as well as the development of the pharmaceutical industry in Cuba, which the Zambian delegation had observed.

The Zambian foreign minister and his retinue yesterday also visited the Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology Center and the Carlos J. Finlay Tropical Medicine Institute. In addition, they learned about the Cuban health program against AIDS [Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome].

The Zambian foreign minister was briefed on the family doctor program which, according to Teja, represents completion of Fidel's idea for the people's health program.

REGIONAL AFFAIRS

Roundup of Disease Reports 19 March-2 April AB0304J20694

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of disease reports monitored from FBIS Abidjan Bureau and EAU coverage areas. Source information is given in parentheses after each item.

Ethiopia

Dysentery—Nine people have died of acute dysentery in Asela Town in central Ethiopia in the past 10 days due to the lack of hygiene. Local government institutions in Asela Town will be closed on 1 April to carry out a cleaning campaign in the town. (Addis Ababa Voice of Ethiopia Network in Amharic 1700 GMT 31 Mar 94)

Gabon

Salmonellosis—Several cases of salmonellosis have been reported in Port Gentil, the economic capital, due to poor food conservation. The manager of the Meridien Hotel said about 20 clients and 15 staffers have been hospitalized with gastroenteritis accompanied by vomiting and acute diarrhea. (Libreville Africa No. 1 in French 1830 GMT 28 Mar 94)

Ghana

AIDS—A medical practitioner at the Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital, Dr. Robert Mensah, has urged the youth association to use their club as a forum for discussing the AIDS pandemic. Dr. Mensah was addressing members of the Ivy League Club in Accra. He said AIDS is real and that Ghana is currently second on the list of the number of recorded cases in West Africa and 11th in Africa. As of April last year, there were 11,044 reported cases of AIDS in Ghana with the Ashanti Region topping the list. (Accra Ghana Broadcasting Corporation Radio Network in English 2000 GMT 2 Apr 94)

Mali

Spinal Meningitis—Some 110 cases of cerebro-spinal meningitis, 32 fatal, have been reported at Segou in the Fourth Region. The worst affected districts are (Nguema-Sylla), Sahn, and Segou where eight, 84, and 11 cases have been reported, respectively. Preventive measures have been put in place for two weeks now. The health services have procured 40,000 doses of vaccines to contain the situation which is gradually improving. There is no cause for alarm now. (Bamako Radiodiffusion-Television du Mali in French 1500 GMT 24 Mar 94)

Niger

AIDS—The Tahoua Department is among the areas most affected by AIDS in the region. In 1993, 180 cases were diagnosed in Tahoua Hospital alone. According to a recent study, 1.4 percent of 650 pregnant rural women

were HIV-positive. Most of these women were contaminated by their husbands returning home after months away. Today, the situation remains status quo. The hospital's AIDS laboratory tests have been suspended due to lack of equipment for blood collection. Blood donors fear contamination and, as a result, the blood bank is empty. (Niamey Voix du Sahel Network in French 1200 GMT 30 Mar 94)

Meningitis—A meningitis epidemic has taken hold of Maradi Department. Most of the victims of the disease are children aged between six months to seven years. At least eight persons, mostly children, are admitted daily to the Maradi Regional Hospital's infectious diseases ward. Twelve percent are likely to die from the disease. The rapidly-spreading epidemic broke out in November 1993 in Sahoda village, in Madaroumfa District. About 200 cases were reported in March. Cases have also been reported in Adjie, Tessaoua, and poorly accessible areas in Dakoro District. Vaccines are currently unavailable but a fresh delivery of drugs is expected soon. (Niamey Voix du Sahel in French 1200 GMT 1 Apr 94)

Nigeria

Infant Mortality—Some 500 babies are said to be dying daily in Nigeria from preventable diseases. Health Minister Dalhatu Tafida disclosed this in Port Harcourt when he visited the Rivers State administrator, Lieutenant Colonel (Dawda Koma). Minister Tafida said measures were already being taken to tackle these preventable diseases. He said these measures include the relaunching of the expanded program on immunization. (Lagos Radio Nigeria Network in English 1500 GMT 26 Mar 94)

Tanzania

Cholera—Cholera has claimed a total of 14 lives since it emerged in Kilimanjaro region last December. The Kilimanjaro regional medical officer, Dr. Bernard Singano, said 10 people lost their lives between September and December last year and four people died between January and 21 March this year. A total of 213 cases were recorded in four districts from September last year to 21 March. The Kilimanjaro regional medical officer said the region had taken steps to contain the epidemic, including health education, but said the region was facing a shortage of drugs to combat the disease. (Dar es Salaam Radio Tanzania Network in English 1600 GMT 24 Mar 94)

Zaire

Cholera—Scores of people have died in the wake of renewed outbreaks of cholera and diarrhea in Zaire, the press reported here on 19 March. The FORUM newspaper spoke of some 100 dead from diarrhea in villages of Eastern Kasai Province, in the center of the country, and the AZAP news agency recently said cholera was killing 15 to 20 people per day in the Upper Lomani region of eastern Shaba Province.

A few months ago, officials said the plague had reappeared in the Ituri region of Upper Zaire.

Health officials said the outbreaks were the result of degenerating sanitary and environmental conditions in the country. (Paris AFP in French 1316 GMT 19 Mar 94)

Roundup of Disease Reports 3-22 April

AB2204204294

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of disease reports monitored from FBIS Abidjan Bureau and EAU coverage areas. Source information is given in parentheses after each item.

Nigeria

Iodine-deficiency disorders—The Edo State commissioner for health has said that the (Akoko Edo), (Etsako East), (Etsako West), and Owan East local government areas in the state are severely affected by iodine-deficiency disorders, especially goiter. A campaign has been launched to control and eradicate the disease. [Lagos NTA Television Network in English 2000 GMT 6 Apr 94]

Measles/cholera—Fifty-three children have died from an outbreak of measles and cholera in a village in southeast Nigeria where local officials feared the death toll could rise, the official NAN news agency said. The report released 13 April did not say when the diseases broke out, but said most of the victims were refugees from the disputed Bakassi Peninsula on the border with Cameroon.

The report quoted an official for the area, in Nigeria's Akwa Ibom state, who said emergency medical help was needed to keep the death toll from rising.

Last week, 25 children were reported to have died from measles in Uquo Ibemo village near the Bakassi peninsula, NAN said. Refugees who fled the disputed zone, a 1,000 square-kilometer (400 square-mile) area rich in fish and oil, are camped in villages in nearby Akwa Ibom and Cross River states.

Nigeria and Cameroon have vowed to find a diplomatic solution to the dispute, which broke out early this year, but both have sent troops to the zone. (Paris AFP in English 1657 GMT 14 Apr 94)

Burkina Faso

Measles/cerebro-spinal meningitis—The director of public health has disclosed that this year's incidence of measles was not as high as last year's. Some isolated cases of cerebro-spinal meningitis have been reported. According to statistics there were more cases this year than last year, but the situation could not be described as an epidemic. In the case of Yalgado Ouedraogo Hospital—where there have been rumors of a new, deadly form of meningitis—from 1 January to 31 March 1993,

70 cases were recorded, with 27 deaths reported for all forms of meningitis. This year, for the same period, 97 cases were recorded, with 31 deaths. Although the number of cases this year is higher than that of last year, it should be noted that all these cases do not come from one locality. [Ouagadougou Radiodiffusion Nationale du Burkina Radio in French 1300 GMT 21 Apr 94]

Ghana

Malaria—Malaria is still the No. 1 killer disease in Ghana. It is a major cause of morbidity and mortality, especially among children below the age of five, and accounts for nearly 30 percent of all clinic attendance in the country. Malaria, related to development and economic activities, is even more rapidly becoming a major problem. As a way of controlling the vector and the disease, the Ministry of Health in 1992 worked out a plan of action for the control of malaria. The director of technical coordination, Dr. Kofi Ahmed, said that the action plan, which is now being implemented, has a long-term objective of reducing the incidence of malaria to tackle levels that will make it cease to be a public health hazard. He said a series of workshops has been set up to train health workers to accurately diagnose what malaria is and the correct treatment for the disease. Dr. Ahmed said apart from medical care, which will be the major strategy, vector control, house education, and revision of health legislation are some of the strategies that would be pursued. [Accra Ghana Broadcasting Corporation Radio Network in English 1300 GMT 19 Apr 94]

Measles/cholera—The regional director of medical services in the Upper East Region has told the GRAPHIC that there is an outbreak of measles affecting children between the ages of five, six, and seven in the region. The TIMES also reports that cholera has claimed the lives of 16 people in Sefwi Akotombra. [Accra Ghana Broadcasting Corporation Radio Network in English 1300 GMT 22 Apr 94]

Niger

Measles/malnutrition—A high incidence of measles and malnutrition has been reported in Dosso recently. This year, the district almost experienced a measles epidemic, with close to 75 cases a week per health center. Most of the cases involved children who had not been vaccinated. Fortunately, with the arrival of the first rains, there has been a decline in the disease. Around 25 to 30 cases of malnutrition were recorded in the first quarter of this year. [Niamey Voix du Sahel Network in French 1200 GMT 22 Apr 94]

SAO-TOME AND PRINCIPE

AIDS—It was reported today that Sao-Tome authorities estimate that at least 1,200 people carry the AIDS virus in Sao-Tome and Principe. This estimation is, however, very likely below the actual figure, since the government so far has not had any means to control the spread of the epidemic, a medical source also stated.

Thirteen cases of the disease were recorded in the archipelago for a total population of about 120,000 inhabitants, according to the conclusions of a seminar organized during the visit of some Portuguese student nurses. A national AIDS control program has been launched in Sao-Tome thanks to external financing, mainly from the WHO and Western countries. Furthermore, an epidemiologic investigation is under way on a part of the archipelago to know this disease in Sao-Tome. [Paris AFP in French 1727 GMT 20 Apr 94]

Epidemiological Reports Monitored 28 March-3 April

MB0304192594

[Editorial Report] Following is a compilation of reports monitored by FBIS Mbabane Bureau from 28 March to 3 April concerning outbreaks of and reports on various diseases. Items are listed by country and disease. Source follows each item.

Angola

Cholera in Lobito—"Three cases of cholera have been reported in Lobito, Benguela Province. According to Lobito District Chief Doctor Eduardo Paulo, lack of basic hygiene in the city is the main cause of this disease." (Luanda Radio Nacional Network in Portuguese 1900 GMT 29 Mar 94)

Cholera in Luanda—"The health situation in Luanda is deteriorating. Our correspondent in Bengo Province says many people are dying of cholera in the city because of heavy rains and poor sanitation. After malaria, cholera is the disease killing the most people in Luanda, particularly in the suburbs. It is expected that the disease will spread throughout the city because the government has failed to take preventive measures." (Jamba Voz da Resistencia do Galo Negro in Portuguese 1900 GMT 29 Mar 94)

Mozambique

Malaria in Manica—"A total of 188 people died of malaria in Manica Province between December 1993 and March 1994. In the same period 3,000 malaria cases were diagnosed in the area. Manica Provincial Hospital Director Zacarias Raimundo says malaria occupies the first place in the number of cases and deaths, followed by dysentery and cholera." (Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 0800 GMT 2 Apr 94)

South Africa

HIV, AIDS—An estimated 566,000 South Africans were HIV positive at the end of 1993, the latest epidemiological survey conducted by the Department of National Health revealed on Wednesday. The statistics were based on surveys conducted annually among women attending prenatal clinics and which served as an indicator of the current HIV epidemic. The epidemic is following its expected trend with no sign of respite and

now stands at a point of prevalence rate of 4.69 per cent. This means that 47 out of 1,000 sexually active people are HIV-infected. The highest incidence of HIV is in kwaZulu/Natal with 9.62 per cent followed by the Orange Free State at 4.13 per cent and the Transvaal with 3.09 per cent. The Cape has a figure of 1.33 per cent. The total number of AIDS cases at the end of February was 3,071. (Johannesburg SAPA in English at 0717 GMT 30 Mar 94)

HIV, AIDS—A Metropolitan Life actuary has estimated that another 280,000 people could be infected with HIV during 1994 and that South Africa could have another 8,000 new AIDS cases by the end of the year. (Johannesburg SAPA in English 1304 GMT 29 Mar 94)

Zambia

Measles—"At least 18 children have died at Museni village in Mpolokosay over the past few months due to an outbreak of measles. Vice President Levy Mwanawasa heard today that most of the children would have been treated but that because of lack of medical facilities lives were lost." (Lusaka Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation Network in English 1800 GMT 28 Mar 94)

Epidemiological Reports Monitored 4-10 April

MB1004175394

[Editorial Report] Following is a compilation of reports monitored by FBIS Mbabane Bureau from 4 to 10 April concerning outbreaks of and reports on various diseases. Items are listed by country and disease. The source follows each item.

Angola

Measles, Malaria, Diarrhea—"Measles, malaria, diarrhea and other diseases have killed 1,350 displaced people in Dondo over the last three months, but the government has sent medicine to that city and now has the situation under control." (Luanda Radio Nacional Network in Portuguese 0600 GMT 5 Apr 94)

Mozambique

AIDS—"Slightly more than 200 blood donors have been turned away over the last 15 months because they were found to be carrying the HIV virus. The adviser to the AIDS program in Manica Province says that 22 out of every 130 blood donors turning up at the blood bank show signs of being infected with the AIDS virus. Dr. Augusto Cesar Macole also told NOTICIAS that every 60 minutes sees one person infected with the virus in that province. He added that the number of AIDS cases in Manica is only surpassed by the number of cases reported in the city of Maputo." (Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 5 Apr 94)

Cholera in Nampula—"Ten people have died of cholera in Nampula Province because of contaminated water caused by the Nadia cyclone last month. According to

Health Minister Leonardo Simao, the number of deaths could rise since the water treatment and distribution system was destroyed by the cyclone. Leonardo Simao said more than 40 health posts have been destroyed in the 13 affected districts." (Maputo Radio Mozambique Network Portuguese 1730 GMT 3 Apr 94)

Diarrhea in Nampula—"Diarrhea had killed at least 30 people in Nampula Province by 2 April. The epidemic broke out in the wake of cyclone Nadia. Ten of those people perished in Nacala." (Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 1030 GMT 5 Apr 94)

Dysentery—"Nine people have died of dysentery at Matil, Moma District, Nampula Province. A total of 53 cases of dysentery were registered in the area. Health authorities say the disease was activated by the contamination of water after Nadia cyclone hit a number of districts in Nampula Province." (Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 1730 GMT 9 Apr 94)

South Africa

AIDS—"There are now 500,000 South Africans infected with the HIV virus that leads to AIDS, according to new Department of Health and Population Development surveys. 'There is no indication of the trend abating,' said Dr. Horst Kuestner, director of epidemiology. The highest rate occurred in Natal/kwaZulu at 9.62 percent of the population, while in the Cape it was 1.33 percent. By the end of 1993, over 3,000 AIDS cases had been reported." (Johannesburg SUNDAY TIMES in English 10 Apr 94 19X)

Zimbabwe

AIDS—"Full-blown AIDS cases are expected to reach a cumulative total of 130,000 in Zimbabwe by the end of the year, ZIANA news agency reports. National AIDS Control Programme Co-ordinator Evaristo Marowa said on Thursday at least 28,000 Zimbabweans suffered from full blown AIDS by the end of 1993. This figure was conservative as it only comprised reported cases. 'The data we collect is inadequate, and we estimate this is only one-third of the actual figure,' said Mr. (M?)rowa." "Zimbabwe had an estimated 60,000 AIDS orphans at the end of last year, a figure expected to rise to 500,000 within five years, he told college lecturers, principals, and other educationists." (Johannesburg SAPA in English 2128 GMT 7 Apr 94)

Dysentery—"Almost 130 people have died from dysentery and more than 25,000 cases have been reported in Zimbabwe since January this year, ZIANA news agency reported on Tuesday. The Ministry of Health and Child Welfare however said the figures had been decreasing slowly since the dysentery outbreak last October." Cases were still being found in Harare and in central Mashonaland and Manicaland. (Johannesburg SAPA in English 2149 GMT 5 Apr)

Epidemiological Reports Monitored 11-17 April MB1704203894

[Editorial Report] Following is a compilation of reports monitored by FBIS Mbabane Bureau from 11 to 17 April concerning outbreaks of and reports on various diseases in southern Africa. Items are listed by country and disease. The source follows each item.

Mozambique

Diarrhea—"The diarrhea epidemic that broke out in Nacala has already claimed 15 lives. The epidemic has been around since cyclone Nadia hit that port city last month." (Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 0700 GMT 12 Apr 94)

Diarrhea—"A total of 370 cases of diarrhea with traces of blood were reported at Maputo Province's Boane Health Center in the past 45 days. Eight patients have been under intensive care, but no deaths have been reported." (Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 1730 GMT 17 Apr 94)

Namibia

Meningitis—"There has been a sharp decline in the number of reported meningitis cases in the Windhoek District, with only 36 patients admitted to Katutura State Hospital in the past week." Since the outbreak of meningitis in October 1993, about 428 patients were admitted to hospitals country-wide. The Ministry of Health and Social Services said 115,200 people around Windhoek and 32,000 people at Walvis Bay had been vaccinated. In the northeast, 17,000 people were vaccinated in Caprivi and Kavango and 3,860 in the central region, which covers Otavi. (Windhoek THE NAMIBIAN ADVERTISER in English 9 April 94 p 40)

Epidemiological Reports Monitored 18-24 April MB2604055094

[Editorial Report] Following is a compilation of reports monitored by FBIS Mbabane Bureau from 18-24 Apr concerning outbreaks of and reports on various diseases. Items are listed by country and disease. Source follows each item.

Swaziland

Malaria—"An undisclosed number of people have died of malaria in the Lubombo region, Lubombo Regional Health Educator, Mr. Africa Magongo disclosed on Friday." Magongo said "between March, April and May the disease is at its peak. He said the deaths have been caused mainly because the people go for treatment very late, sometimes already unconscious." (Mbabane TIMES OF SWAZILAND in English 18 Apr 94 p 5)

Goitre—The Swaziland National Nutrition Council (SNNC) is "advocating for legislation to ban the use of un-iodised salt because of an increase in goitre disease. The council wants that only iodized salt be imported to

the country but only if it has the 50 parts per million level required here instead of the present 20 parts per million....Statistics in the Working Document of the SNNC indicate that Hhohho and Manzini regions are severely hit by Iodine Deficiency Disorders [IDD]. The Hhohho region has a 38 percent total goitre rate and Manzini 29 percent. Shiselweni and Lubombo which are respectively assessed as moderate and mild to IDD have 13 and 6.0 percent total goitre rate." (Mbabane TIMES OF SWAZILAND SUNDAY in English 17 Apr 94 pp 1, 2)

Zambia

Meningitis—"Meningitis has broken out at the towns of Ndola and Kitwe in Zambia's Copperbelt region, killing at least 20 people....Reports say Ndola Hospital does not have enough drugs to combat the disease and emergency supplies have been ordered from the capital Lusaka." (Johannesburg Channel Africa Radio in English 1100 GMT 23 Apr 94)

SOMALIA

Cholera Epidemic Spreads in Kismayu Area
*LD1403192894 Brussels La Une Radio Network
in French 1700 GMT 14 Mar 94*

[Text] The health situation in Somalia is increasingly worrying. A cholera epidemic is gaining ground in the country. It has just reached the town of Kismayu in the south of Somalia, where the greatest part of the Belgian contingent used to be based. Dr. Georges Dalemagne, who is with the Medecins Sans Frontieres organization, takes stock of the situation: [begin recording]

Dalemagne: There has been cholera in Somalia for a few weeks in several regions, including Baydhabo, Belet Huen, and Mogadishu. We heard last weekend through

our team on the ground that there were cases in Kismayu. In a single weekend, we checked 127 people suffering from cholera into the hospital. A wind of panic is blowing through the town at the moment: it is rumored that there have been a few deaths, but the hospital has registered only one death so far among the 127 patients.

Correspondent Michel Lagaze: Do you think that things are going to get worse over the next few days, or could we have them under control?

Dalemagne: Cholera epidemics usually last for a few weeks. We have the impression that the peak is to be expected in less than a week's time, and there may well be several hundred cases in the town by then. We have had to take special measures. We have set up a special camp, a cholera camp, since the aim is twofold: to put the patients in quarantine and to give them special treatment—they have to be hydrated, to be put under perfusion, to receive a specific antibiotic treatment. We have already sent 12,000 liters of perfusion fluid from our base in Nairobi. We may also need to close down some markets, to take measures to prevent this epidemic from spreading to other towns near Kismayu. [end recording]

Swiss Doctor: Cholera Epidemic Spread to 'Whole Country'

*LD0504154694 Bern Swiss Radio International
in English 1500 GMT 5 Apr 94*

[Text] A cholera epidemic that started in Boosasaaso in northeastern Somalia in February has now spread to the whole country, a Zurich doctor who returned from the country on 3 April has told Swiss Radio International. Dr. Mathias Muheim, who spent a month in Somalia as a member of a WHO team studying the epidemic, said the total number of cases had reached 6,000, with a mean fatality rate of two percent of cases. The team visited Mogadishu, Boosaaso, Kiysmaayo, Baidoa, Beledweyne, and Gaalkacyo, he told the radio.

VD and AIDS Prevention Association Established in Beijing

54004805A Beijing ZHONGGUO XINWEN ZHOUKAN [BEIJING REVIEW] in English Vol 37 No 2, 10-16 Jan 94 p 30

[Excerpts] The China Venereal Disease (VD) and AIDS Prevention Association, a national organization aiming to mobilize action by the entire society to prevent and effectively control the spread of these illnesses, was set up in Beijing on the Sixth World AIDS Day on December 1.

Organized by the Ministries of Public Health and Public Security, the association draws in nearly 200 council members including six vice-ministerial officials and affiliated departmental- and bureau-level officers from the aforementioned ministries and the Ministries of Justice and Civil Affairs, the Army and Police Force, as well as several dozen leading public health officials from other provinces and cities. It also consists of numerous well-known experts and scholars from state research units such as the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences, the Chinese Academy of Preventive Medicine, the Academy of Traditional Chinese Medicine, and China Foundation for Global Venereal Disease and AIDS, plus research and prevention organizations in other provinces and cities.

Following six years of efforts since the First World AIDS Day on December 1, 1988, a nationwide network to monitor and prevent sexually transmitted diseases has been formed. The government has successively established the China Consulting Committee of Experts on VD, the State Expert Committee on Control and Prevention of AIDS, and the China Research Center of VD Prevention. It has set up 26 monitoring sites and 1,535 VD prevention organizations across the country, HIV monitoring centers in 13 provinces and 161 HIV monitoring posts in further provinces and regions. Some 200 HIV initial detection labs have been created nationwide, and the number of AIDS identification labs has risen to 12. In 1993, with support from the Ministries of Public Health and Finance, Guangdong and Yunnan, the two provinces where the AIDS problem is the most serious, established their own AIDS prevention centers. [passage omitted]

The task for the new association is to coordinate and integrate promotion and education, medical treatment and prevention, scientific research and legal supervision. It must form a strong behemoth of opinion and force of opposition across society to finally curb the continuous spread of AIDS.

AIDS Situation Updates

54004805B Beijing ZHONGGUO XINWEN ZHOUKAN [BEIJING REVIEW] in English Vol 37 No 2, 10-16 Jan 94 p 31

[Excerpt] Latest reports indicate that in the past few years, VD and AIDS have expanded across the mainland

at an astonishing pace. By the end of 1992, 30 provinces and cities had reported a total of over 800,000 VD patients. In 1992 alone some 200,000 cases were notified, an increase of 13.79 percent over the previous year. In addition, by the end of November 1993, 1,159 AIDS patients and individuals infected with the HIV virus had been found in 22 provinces and cities. Mainlanders made up 948 cases, with the rest being foreigners and overseas Chinese. Out of the 19 full-blown AIDS patients, 14 have died. The incidence of VD and AIDS patients or HIV carriers is most serious in coastal or border provinces and regions such as Guangdong, Fujian, Yunnan, Zhejiang, Hainan and Guangxi. However, in recent years, inland provinces which are economically advanced or experiencing tourism booms, like Hunan, Hubei and Sichuan, have also witnessed rapid increases in these afflictions.

The spread of VD and AIDS on the mainland has disturbed and worried people. The media has generally attributed the rapid spread of AIDS to the influx of foreigners into a more open China plus the internal floating population. In reality, China's younger generation, affected by unhealthy foreign thinking and at variance with traditional concepts about sexual behavior, constitutes the more dangerous internal factor.

In 1992, Shanghai held a comprehensive survey on psychology and morals among people aged between 20 and 55. To the question "Are you in favor of a woman developing sexual relationships with several men?" the responses varied according to generation. More younger people said yes.

In 1991, the China Union Medical College Hospital conducted a survey on taxi drivers and hotel attendants in a Beijing district. Some 13.6 percent of the drivers and 3.4 percent of the attendants admitted to more than one sexual partner. About 16.6 percent of the former and 41.9 percent of the latter had desires for more sexual partners.

New concepts have led to disastrous consequences. Surveys on 16 large and medium-sized cities indicate the annual increase rate for VD in recent years reached 45.63 percent. The number of Chinese HIV carriers infected through sexual contact rose to 20 percent.

The press, sociologists and medics have made an appeal that in the coming new year priority be given to extensive publicity and education on VD and AIDS prevention, and dissemination of scientific knowledge. Various approaches should be applied to publicize the influence brought by VD and AIDS on individuals, families, children and society, to foster public awareness of protection measures and morality, so that people become neither VD sufferers nor spreaders. [passage omitted]

WHO Urges China To Strengthen AIDS Control
S40048064 Beijing CHINA DAILY [NATIONAL]
in English 9 Mar 94 p 3

[Article by Zhu Baoxin: "Who: Intensify AIDS Efforts Now To Stem Tide"]

[Text] The Chinese Government has been urged to take further steps immediately to slow down the nationwide spread of AIDS.

Michael H. Merson, WHO's executive director for the global program on AIDS, suggested that the Chinese central government should focus on preventing the sexual transmission of HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

Efforts should include expanded educational programs, increased use of condoms, and the treatment of sexually transmitted diseases.

And AIDS control work must not be confined to Yunnan Province, where reported cases make up about 80 per cent of the country's total.

Education and publicity campaigns should be carried out regularly in all other parts of the country, especially in the economic development zones and the coastal regions that have experienced a sharp rise in transient populations, he suggested.

Merson is in Beijing to help the government work out feasible policies to combat AIDS.

He discussed the worldwide and Chinese AIDS situations with State Councillor Peng Peiyun and officials from the Ministry of Public Health.

He warned that, like other Asian countries, China faces the possibility of a serious HIV and AIDS epidemic. Compared with the size of the country's population of 1.1 billion, the number of reported HIV infections and cases of AIDS is relatively low, he said, but there is no reason for complacency.

Experience has shown that the actual number of infections and cases of AIDS is usually greater than the number of reported cases, and the risk factors fueling this pandemic elsewhere in the region also exist in China.

So far, some 1,159 HIV infections and AIDS cases have been reported on the Chinese mainland. However, the actual figure could be much higher because of limited surveillance work.

Experts warn that unless quick steps are taken now, the number of cases will grow rapidly in the next six years.

However, the trend can still be slowed through extensive AIDS-prevention publicity and education, plays an effective role in preventing the spread of AIDS.

Yunnan Sets Up AIDS Monitoring, Prevention Network

HK2403150694 Hong Kong ZHONGGUO TONGXUN SHE in Chinese 0539 GMT 14 Mar 94

[Text] Hong Kong, 14 March (ZHONGGUO TONGXUN SHE)—This reporter has learned from the Yunnan Provincial AIDS Prevention and Control Office that, over the past four years or so, the province has spent over 7.6 million yuan in the prevention and cure of AIDS, and that the amount exceeds 10 million yuan if state appropriations and international aid are added. In the meantime, a strict monitoring and examination network system has been set up.

Yang Qi, who is in charge of the Yunnan Provincial AIDS Prevention and Control Office, said: In the past few years, Yunnan has done a great deal of work in organizing and managing the prevention and control of AIDS, monitoring epidemic diseases, making laws and regulations, giving publicity to and carrying out education, and in training, researching, and gaining international cooperation. A monitoring and examination network, which is composed of one monitoring and examination center, 10 preliminary screening laboratories, and 34 monitoring points, plays an exceedingly important role in the prevention and control of AIDS.

Yang Qi said that the monitoring of 147,330 highly susceptible people in Yunnan shows that HIV-infected persons are still mainly concentrated in the western border area of Yunnan. As of the end of 1993, there were 977 HIV-infected persons, of whom 102 were foreigners. Of these 977 persons, 17 were diagnosed as AIDS sufferers, and nine have already died.

Yang Qi said: Yunnan keeps files on every HIV-infected person and every AIDS patient. Moreover, it follows up on them with medical treatment and continuously strengthens education for their families and highly susceptible people. Furthermore, in addition to the AIDS Prevention and Control Day held once each year, Yunnan has printed some 100,000 tracts about AIDS in the Dai and Jingpo languages and installed three telephones for inquiries. All this plays an effective role in preventing the spread of AIDS.

Control of Epidemic Hemorrhagic Fever Urged
94P601504 Beijing JIANG KANG BAO in Chinese
23 Jan 94 p 1

[Article by Zheng Lingqiao [6774 7227 1564]]

[Summary] The Ministry of Public Health reported recently that disease incidence of epidemic hemorrhagic fever (EHF) is rising in some areas of China and urged the local government to pay closer attention to the matter. According to the report, from January to October in 1993, although the disease incidence and death toll dropped 11.14 percent and 43.48 percent respectively from the same period of 1992, disease incidence in some local areas in Anhui, Sichuan, and

Shandong Provinces rose rapidly and even caused some deaths since October of 1993. Reports submitted by 40 EHF monitoring stations across the country also affirmed the rapid increase of EHF disease incidence since last October. Wild rats are believed to be the major vectors of disease transmission, because the density of wild rats in some rural areas is as high as 30-40 percent, and 15 percent in residential areas. *Apodemus agrarius*, which accounts for 80-90 percent of wild rat population, is the major intermediate host. In 1993, higher virus-carrying rate and infection index of *Apodemus agrarius* have also been reported.

Over 100,000 Said To Suffer Agri-Chemical Poisoning Annually

HK2803133994 Beijing ZHONGGUO XINWEN SHE in English 1202 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Text] Beijing, March 28 (CNS)—More than 100,000 persons are poisoned by chemicals used in agriculture annually in recent years in China, with the number poisoned in the course of production equalling those not engaged in production activities, according to the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Public Health.

In 1992, a total of 70,618 persons in 25 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities suffered from poisoning from agricultural chemicals resulting in 8,620 deaths, 12.2 percent of all those succumbing to such poisoning. In 1993, some 51,283 persons in 27 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities were found to have been poisoned with 6,156 of them dying, making up 12 percent of all those poisoned. According to experts, some 60 percent of all such poisoning cases had gone unreported.

In the mid-eighties, there were many cases of such poisoning. The authorities in some provinces organized teams to prevent and treat such poisoning and educated peasants about how to use agricultural chemicals, reducing the occurrence of such poisoning. After 1987, the shortage of funds and a drop in the number of professional staff responsible for prevention and guidance work saw an increase in the number of people affected by such poisoning. The number of peasants using agricultural chemicals increased to over 100 million households made up of 200 to 300 million individuals, leading to an increase in the number of people suffering from such poisoning.

Views, Development of Organ Transplantation

OW0804090094 Beijing XINHUA in English 0817 GMT 8 Apr 94

[“Roundup” by Li Wei: “Organ Transplantation Developing in China”]

[Text] Beijing, April 8 (XINHUA)—Xue Liansheng, 17, who suffered from severe hemophilia, received a mother-donated spleen transplant three years ago in

Wuhan, capital of central China's Hubei Province. Now he can walk to school with a cane instead of crawling on all-fours.

Nearly 20,000 people in China have received various organ transplants since the 1970's. To date, 21 different kinds of clinical transplants have been performed in China, including kidney, liver, spleen, pancreas, heart, bone marrow, adrenal gland, parathyroid, lung, testicle, pancreas-kidney, hepatic cell, spleen cell, brain cell and brain nervous tissue.

Shortage of organ donors—in part because of the grip of old ideas—is restricting the expansion of these operations to help yet more people.

Kidney transplants have been the most numerous in China's clinical organ transplants: more than 10,000 have been done by nearly 90 medical institutions so far.

By 1993, nearly 800 kidney recipients had survived for five years and over 100 recipients survived for ten years.

More than 60 liver transplants have been performed in China. Eleven heart transplants have been done and two recipients have survived for nearly two years.

In addition, pork islet grafts were done for eight patients who had been suffering from “type one” diabetes for five to 22 years.

Transplants of cranial nerve tissue and brain cells have also been developed with good results in treating Parkinson's disease, dwarfism, chorea and cerebral hypoplasia in recent years, said experts.

The study of organ transplantation in China began in the 1970's, about ten years later than abroad. However, the kinds of organ transplants which have been developed elsewhere in the world can now also be done in China, said Qiu Fazu, honorary president of the Wuhan-located Tongji Medical University. He is one of the founders of China's organ transplant research.

The Institute of Organ Transplantation of Tongji Medical University is China's only large-scale comprehensive research unit in this field. In addition, there are several dozens of medical units in China which have also joined the study and clinical practice of organ transplantation.

More than 60 researchers work in the three-storey building of the Tongji Institute. They have developed 13 kinds of organ transplants, including liver, pancreas, kidney, spleen, islets as well as cell perfusion.

Xia Suisheng, 70, who is director of the institute and president of the Society of Organ Transplantation of the Chinese Medical Association, has performed nearly 1,000 transplant operations and saved the lives of a number of people who were suffering from serious diseases.

According to Professor Qiu Fazu, China has made some up-to-international-level achievements in organ transplants in recent years. However, it still lags behind advanced countries in the transplantation of large organs such as liver and heart, said Qiu.

One of the main causes lies in a shortage of organ donors because of the public rejection of the "brain death" concept, Qiu said. In China, it is morally and legally prohibited to procure organs from corpses whose heart is still beating.

"As a result, the quality of grafts in China is lower than that of advanced countries," he said.

In addition, medical expenses for an organ transplant in China are so high that ordinary people cannot afford it. A liver transplant costs more than 100,000 yuan (about 11,500 U.S. dollars), and the imported immuno-suppressive drugs are also very expensive, said Qiu.

It is learned that Chinese scientists have been trying to extract immuno-suppressive materials from traditional Chinese herbal medicines so as to lower the medical expenses for organ transplantation.

Medical specialists said they would continue to appeal to the public to accept the concept that "brain death is the beginning of irreversible death" and strive for its legal recognition.

"With enough organ donors, more Chinese people suffering from severe diseases will be saved through organ transplants," said Qiu.

Sino-U.S. Study Views Effect of Environment, Work on Health

OW1604134094 Beijing XINHUA in English
1314 GMT 16 Apr 94

[Text] Hefei, April 16 (XINHUA)—An initial survey of a large-scale Sino-U.S. joint investigation of the impact of environment and occupations on people's health was recently concluded in East China's Anhui Province.

It has produced a large body of data for experts to process and analyze.

The survey was sponsored by the International Research Center of Environmental Epidemiology, an institution jointly founded by Anhui Medical Sciences University and the U.S. Harvard University.

The four-month initial survey began last August 1 among almost 60,000 residents near Anqing City.

Each survey form contained more than 2,300 items of information. It focused on two subjects: natural history

of respiratory system diseases and the relations between pesticide pollution and disease.

Regular follow-up surveys will be carried out among the same group of people in the next 15 years and will occupy generations of experts to research and find solutions to problems.

Survey on Chinese People's Health Situation

94P60122D Beijing JIAN KANG BAO in Chinese
16 Nov 93 p 1

[Article by Wei Ping [7614 5493]]

[Summary] Recently the Institute of Epidemiology of the Chinese Academy of Preventive Medicine (CAPM) conducted a study entitled "Diseases Monitor Methodology and Chinese People's Health Situation," which provides reference information for mapping out China's near- and long-term health plan. Since 1989, in five years CAPM established a national diseases monitor network including 145 monitoring stations in 30 provinces, municipalities directly under the Central Government and autonomous regions. The purpose of monitoring stations is to study people's health situation in China. The stations' major findings are: China's overall birthrate, mortality rate and infant deathrate are basically unchanged or somewhat decreased. However, rate of decrease is different from region to region. For example, overall birthrate and infant mortality rate in the rural areas are twice those of the cities. In poor rural areas, epidemic disease incidences of digestive system account for 50 percent of the category A and category B infectious diseases. Death rate of adult tuberculosis in poor rural areas ranks highest in the world.

The four major causes of death in China are cardio- cerebrovascular diseases, malignant tumors, respiratory diseases and accidents. Bronchial tumor, which increases at the annual rate of 4.5 percent in the nation and 10 percent in rural areas, is the major killing tumor of Chinese people. Accidents, especially traffic accidents, are increasing at a rate of 10 percent each year in China.

Study Finds Wide Spread Parasitic Infection

94P60122B Beijing ZHONGGUO YIXUE LUNTAN BAO [CHINA MEDICAL TRIBUNE] in Chinese
Vol 19 No 47, Dec 93 p 2

[Article by Hao Xinping [6787 2450 1627]]

[Summary] Although China has attained significant achievements in controlling malaria, schistosomiasis, filariasis, and black fever, not much has been studied on the scope of distribution, rules of spreading, degrees of damage of the more harmful parasites. In 1986 the Ministry of Public Health launched an unprecedented large-scale study on parasitic infection. According to the report given in the "National Survey on Distribution of Human Parasites," 62.6 percent of Chinese people are

infected with 56 kinds of parasites, among them, 19 are protozoa, 16 flukes, 12 nematodes (eelworms), eight cestodes (tapeworms), and one thornheaded worm. The Taiwan thornbelt fluke found in Fujian, tiny spinous fluke and narrow testis thornmouth fluke found in Anhui and Fujian, are the two first time-reported parasites, and the Fujian spinous fluke is a newly-discovered species in China. There are more unidentified newly-discovered parasites found in every province. According to the report, among 147,7742 [as printed] people surveyed, 10.315 percent are infected with protozoa, 0.573 percent with flukes, 0.195 percent with cestodes, 59.022 percent with nematodes, and 43.33 percent of the surveyed population are cross-infected with two or more kinds of parasites, some are even infected with nine kinds of parasites. Some children under five years old are already infected with six kinds of parasites. Higher roundworm (46.999 percent), hookworm (17.166 percent) and whipworm (18.796 percent) infections are also reported in the above surveyed population. The data indicate that in China, by estimate, about 531 million people are infected with roundworms, 194 million with hookworms, and 212 million with whipworms.

Findings of Lyme Disease Study Summarized

94P60122C Beijing JIAN KANG BAO in Chinese
14 Jan 94 p 1

[Article by Lin Xiuzhen [2651 4423 3791]]

[Summary] A survey report conducted by a team led by Zhang Zhefu on "Lyme Disease Etiology and Epidemiology" reveals that 5.33 percent of the surveyed 25,795 population who live in the wooded areas of 19 provinces, autonomous regions and cities directly governed by the Central Government, are infected with Lyme disease, and in some severely-infected areas infection rate is even much higher, from 11.25 percent to 18.91 percent. Average morbidity rate for the surveyed population is from 1 percent to 4.5 percent, but it reaches up to 9 percent in severely-infected areas. Since 1985, the team has focused its study on Lyme disease epidemiology, etiology, vectors, host animals and the disease's clinical symptoms. The team isolated 83 Lyme disease spirochetes from patients, host animals and ticks, and found that spirochetes isolated in China are different in their structural patterns from those isolated in Western countries. The team also identified the natural epidemic focuses in 12 provinces.

HONG KONG

Eight New HIV Infections Contracted Via Heterosexual Activity

HK2703021894 Hong Kong EASTERN EXPRESS in English 26 Mar 94 p 5

[Article by Mariana Wan]

[Text] Seven men and a woman returned positive HIV antibody tests last month, bringing the number of HIV-infected persons in Hong Kong to 429. The Department of Health believes the new patients all contracted the potentially lethal virus through heterosexual activity. Four HIV carriers developed the deadly AIDS virus last month. There have been 99 confirmed AIDS cases in Hong Kong, and 65 of them have already died.

The Hong Kong Red Cross blood transfusion service has recorded 29 people with the AIDS virus. An AIDS Foundation member, Patrick Li, called on the public to stop using the transfusion service to find out whether they are HIV carriers. The Department of Health and the AIDS Foundation offered free and confidential AIDS tests. Li said.

Health Department Reports Surge in Hepatitis Cases

HK2803073094 Hong Kong EASTERN EXPRESS in English 28 Mar 94 p 6

[Article by Susie Weldon]

[Text] Viral hepatitis infections surged in 1992, with more than twice as many cases recorded as in the previous year, according to statistics just released by the Department of Health. More people were also diagnosed as having sexually transmitted diseases, died of lung cancer and heart disease, or were admitted to hospital because of injury or poisoning.

The department's annual report for 1992-93 shows that 4,357 hepatitis cases were reported in 1992 compared with 1,801 in 1991. Almost all were hepatitis A, 157 were hepatitis B and 301 were classified as neither A nor B. The report said the infections were due to eating raw or badly cooked seafood from Hong Kong's polluted waters. Other figures in the report show Hong Kong people died from the same serious diseases, in about the same proportions, in 1992 as in the previous year.

The biggest killers were cancers, heart diseases and cerebrovascular diseases, which together accounted for almost two-thirds of all deaths. As in the previous year, lung cancer killed more men and women than any other tumour, causing 2,761 deaths in 1992. Most of these were due to smoking, the department said.

Liver cancer and nasopharyngeal cancer were the second and third most common tumours among men, compared to breast and colon cancer among women. Although slightly fewer people died of a heart attack in 1992—

1,785 men and women—overall deaths from heart disease rose by about 400, to 5,359.

More babies died in that year because they were born too small. Almost 24 percent (83 deaths) of infant mortalities in 1992 were blamed on immaturity, compared with about 15 percent (67 deaths) the previous year.

A staggering 82,800 patients were treated in hospital because of injury and poisoning in 1992, making the category the leading cause of hospital admission. Of the 1,693 deaths from injury and poisoning—the fifth biggest cause of death in 1992—almost 45 percent were self inflicted or due to suicide. The other main causes of hospital admission were circulatory diseases (67,800), cancer (65,000) and normal delivery (54,600).

Nearly 3,000 more people were diagnosed with sexually transmitted diseases in 1992, making a total of 13,257 cases. Almost 60 percent of these were in men aged between 20 to 40 years. One man died from syphilis.

More than 5,000 people were treated in hospital for "the effects of a foreign body entering through orifice", while about 2,560 were admitted because of complications arising from previous medical or surgical care.

Doctors were unable to diagnose the illness in about 11,300 cases. Almost 3,400 people died because they were killed or fatally injured by other people. One person died because of injuries resulting from "operation of war" in 1992.

INDONESIA

Ten Thai Fishermen in South Sumatra Found HIV-Positive

BK1204092594 Jakarta REPUBLIKA in Indonesian 5 Apr 94 p 12

[Excerpt] Palembang, REPUBLIKA—An AIDS fear is gripping the residents of Bangka Island, South Sumatra after 10 Thai fishermen were found to be infected with HIV. The relevant officials are subsequently taking necessary steps to prevent any undesirable effects.

A REPUBLIKA source at the South Sumatra Provincial Office of the Department of Health revealed the discovery on Monday. According to the source, a laboratory check strongly indicated that the 10 Thai fishermen were infected with the virus that causes AIDS. [passage omitted]

Six Succumb To Cholera in Sawang District

BK2303125694 Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 11 Mar 94 p 17

[Text] Lhokseumawe, KOMPAS—A cholera epidemic which broke out in Sawang District, North Aceh (39 km west of Lhokseumawe) over the last two days has claimed six victims. Another 20 cholera victims are currently receiving treatment at the local health center.

The communicable disease which occurred in the district was reported to have spread to the interior region. Prior to this, three children died of the disease in Simpang Kramat.

The North Aceh Health Department chief, Dr. T. Marwan Nusri, clarified to KOMPAS on 10 Mar that the six victims died in Sawang after contracting the disease. They were Syaribanun (50), Aisyah (45), Maneh (40), Abidin (65), Maryam (65), and Hasan (65).

Four of the victims died in their homes while the other two died at the health center in Sawang. All of the victims were from the interior region, which is far away from the health center.

It was understood that Dr. Marwan had personally visited the affected Sawang district on Wednesday 9 March. At the same time, he had distributed medication and taken water samples from hundreds of wells around the district. He suspected that the well water was contaminated by the virus. Marwan said: "The cases which occurred in Sawang were considered as extraordinary."

He said that a temporary test conducted indicated that the water from a river was unfit for consumption.

JAPAN

Health Ministry Reports Jan-Feb AIDS Toll

OW2303112894 Tokyo KYODO in English 1053 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Text] Tokyo, March 23 KYODO—The latest report on AIDS showed Wednesday [23 March] that 38 Japanese, the highest-ever figure, were newly recognized as AIDS patients and HIV carriers during a two-month period from January to February.

The Health and Welfare Ministry's AIDS surveillance committee said medical facilities throughout the country reported to the committee 66 new AIDS patients and HIV carriers, including the Japanese, during the two months.

The bimonthly total, 12 more than the previous two-month period, brought the total number of those who have contracted AIDS and have been infected with HIV to 1,476.

Of the 66 new cases, 42 were men and 24 were women, the committee said.

The figure excludes those infected with the disease via blood transfusion.

Of the new bimonthly figure, 28 were foreigners comprising 10 men and 18 women. Most of the women were from Southeast Asia and were engaged in the sex business, the committee said.

Of the 1,476 AIDS patients and HIV carriers, Tokyo topped the list with 490, accounting for 33.2 percent of

the total, followed by Ibaraki Prefecture with 180, Chiba Prefecture with 108, Kanagawa Prefecture with 91 and Nagano Prefecture with 82, it said.

Tottori and Nagasaki were the only two of the country's 47 prefectures which have no AIDS patients or HIV carriers, the panel said. the report says.

SOUTH KOREA

Health Ministry Releases AIDS, HIV Virus Figures

SK0304020694 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 3 Apr 94 p 3

[Text] Six more people were found to be infected with the virus that causes AIDS and two died of the deadly disease last month, health officials said yesterday. Two AIDS victims who died March 6 and March 7, respectively, sent shock waves through the nation because they hid or did not know of the fact that they had been infected with the HIV virus.

The Ministry of Health and Social Affairs estimates those infected with AIDS across the country at around 1,000, one-third of whom are under the ministry's strict health control.

The cause of death was found to be connected with the AIDS virus one day after a 36-year-old only identified as Ku died March 6, a ministry official said. And a man identified as So, 37, had been dead four days before he was diagnosed as an AIDS victim, he added.

An Ethiopian seaman was ordered March 14 to leave the country after he was found to be HIV positive, the official said. He was the 43rd foreigner diagnosed as an AIDS carrier. Those foreigners are forced to return to their countries.

According to the figures released by the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, the country has seen a total of 337 people infected with HIV since the first AIDS case was reported in Korea in 1985. Of them 44 have died and one emigrated to an unknown country. HIV causes AIDS or acquired immune deficiency syndrome.

KCNA Reports Production of Medicines Hit Quarterly Target

SK0104151194 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1502 GMT 1 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 1 (KCNA)—Great quantities of highly efficacious Koryo medicines are being produced by the General Bureau of Koryo medicine production in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

According to data available, pharmaceutical factories in various parts of the country hit the first quarterly target at 102.5 percent on the 29th.

The pharmaceutical factories under the Pyongyang municipal management bureau of Koryo medicine production have topped the daily and monthly quotas by expanding the equipment of the extracting and enriching processes and raising the standard of modernization.

The technicians and workers of the central district pharmaceutical factory have developed a new pharmaceutical material from medicinal herbs abundant in the country and introduced it in the production of widely-used medicines by pooling their creative wisdom and efforts.

The Yomju County pharmaceutical factory under the North Phyongan provincial management bureau of Koryo medicine production has turned out large quantities of highly efficacious medicines with selfmade bonding agents.

Pharmaceutical factories under the Kaesong municipal and South Phyongan provincial management bureaus of Koryo medicine production have produced much more tonics with insam (ginseng) and inters as their main ingredients [words indistinct] newly-used medicines than the plan.

LAOS

Saravane District Malaria Incidence

Vientiane VIENTIANE MAI in Lao 3 Mar 94 p 4

[Excerpt] Currently, the rate of malaria incidence among the population of Lao Ngam District, Saravane Province stands at 26.8 percent. This was brought to light during examinations for malaria in the rural areas. A total of 2,389 people submitted to blood tests and 641 were found to have malaria.

MALAYSIA

Health Ministry To Set Up Centers for HIV Carriers

BK0204095894 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0835 GMT 2 Apr 94

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, April 2 (OANA-BERNAMA)—The Ministry of Health is setting up special centres in government hospitals for prostitutes who are HIV carriers, the Minister Lee Kim Sai said here Saturday. The centres would also provide rehabilitation programmes to help them change their lifestyle and dissuade them from returning to their trade.

At present, 140 prostitutes, including 100 foreigners, have been detained and found to be infected with HIV, the virus which causes AIDS, he told reporters in Seremban, about 60 km south of here.

Lee said all the foreign prostitutes would be repatriated to their country of origin while the 40 local prostitutes

would be sent to the centres. [Words indistinct] government had allocated RM [Malaysian ringgit] 218 million [words indistinct] for AIDS prevention activities and awareness campaigns for a three-year period beginning 1993.

There were now 7,000 HIV carriers in Malaysia, 85 per cent of whom were drug addicts, who formed the majority of the 150-200 HIV carriers detected monthly.

He said the most prominent problem in the AIDS prevention campaign in the country was to convince the high risk groups to change their habit and lifestyle.

Lee also said that the country's infant mortality rate had been reduced from 13 per 1,000 during the Fifth Malaysia Plan period (1985-1990) to 11 per 1,000 at present.

Ten Patients in Perlis State Test Positive for Cholera

BK1804132094 Kuala Lumpur NEW SUNDAY TIMES in English 17 Apr 94 p 3

[Excerpt] Kangar, Sat—Perlis has been hit by cholera and health teams are taking every possible measure to prevent the disease from spreading.

State medical and health services director Dr. Faisal Ibrahim said today that 10 patients who tested positive for cholera and a carrier had been detected since the first case was reported on April 6.

The victims, aged between seven months and 70 years, are mostly living in housing areas and were found to have consumed food bought from stalls.

The state cholera operations room has been opened to monitor developments.

Dr. Faisal said health officers were carrying out preventative activities, especially among food hawkers and handlers in Kangar, Kuala Perlis and Arau since investigations revealed that all the victims had consumed food obtained from sources outside their homes. [passage omitted]

PHILIPPINES

Health Official Reveals Eight New HIV Cases

BK0404120894 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 30 Mar 94 p 12

[Article by Robert R. Requintina]

[Text] Health Secretary Juan Flavier said yesterday that there are eight new cases of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) which causes Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), bringing to 483 the total number of AIDS cases in the Philippines this year.

Flavier also said the Department of Health (DOH) has decided to temporarily withhold the distribution of information, education and communication materials earlier found "offensive" pending the release of guidelines.

As of February this year, Flavier said the total number of fullblown AIDS cases was 127 while 77 persons have already died of the incurable disease. Of the new cases, four were females while the rest were males whose ages ranged from 31 to 33 years old.

The health department estimated that 50,000 people harbor the HIV virus but are not aware of it. Less than 500 cases have been documented and 116 have resulted in deaths from full-blown AIDS. HIV infection in the Philippines is transmitted primarily through heterosexual and not homosexual contact.

Flavier said that ReachOut [as published] material entitled "Lust for Life" which contained pictures of men in anal sex would not be released until members of the HIV-AIDS network have agreed on the guidelines next week.

The material was also reported to have reached school children. Apparently, he said, the Filipinos are not yet ready for the kind of material which was funded by an American organization and aimed at homosexuals.

Another non-government organization, Kabalikat [copartner], which printed comics on family planning was the subject of criticisms by the school and the church sectors. Flavier said that the comics contained the use of condoms with the penis in an erect position.

"As a doctor, I don't find it offensive. But if it affects the sensibilities of some people, then we also have to discuss this matter," he said.

Flavier stressed that the health department cannot censor the information materials because the DOH lacks specific guidelines.

Herb Said Effective Against HIV

BK0404103894 Manila MANILA BULLETIN
in English 30 Mar 94 p B-10

[Article by Ali G. Macabalang]

[Text] Cotabato City—Makabuhay (*Dinospora rumphi*), a wild plant known to be an effective cure for typhoid fever, tuberculosis, and other ailments, can prolong the life of persons afflicted with Human Immuno-Deficiency Virus (HIV).

Studies showed that makabuhay has been found to have various medical uses.

In some tropical countries, the plant is widely used to fight malaria and is also used as an "abortifacient" and as a cure for women with irregular menstruation.

After learning of makabuhay from the pharmacology department of the University of the Philippines (UP), Dr. Eduardo De La Fuente Sr., a retired government physician and director of the Cotabato Herbal Processing and Pharmaceutical Plant here, undertook an extensive study on the "life-giver" herb.

The UP Pharmacological Department, led by Dr. Nelia Maramba in their studies, found out that the plant can protect the human immune system, according to De La Fuente.

Appraised of the discovery, doctors tried a makabuhay concoction to Sarah Jane (not her real name), a "sex worker" found positive of the HIV.

Two months ago, Sarah Jane willingly agreed to undergo "makabuhay therapy," hoping that her condition would not worsen to a full-blown AIDS case.

"The purpose of giving the patient makabuhay preparations is to prolong the stay of anti-bodies in her body and protect her immune system," De La Fuente said.

"We will let the virus die of old age while preserving Sarah Jane's immune system," he said, admitting though that makabuhay has not been medically validated as a drug.

He also cautioned that if improperly prepared and wrongly taken, "the makabuhay preparation could be extremely toxic and could instead do more harm than good."

Sr. Florecilla Inzon, a Dominican sister and incumbent directress of the Catholic-run Notre Dame Hospital here who takes care of Sarah Jane, said that she remains healthy without any sign of deterioration in her physical feature.

"Dati siyang madalas na nilalagnat ng matagal [She used to get long periods of fever quite often]," she said, "pero hindi na siya nilalagnat ngayon [but she does not have those fevers now]."

Typhoid Fever Outbreak Reported in Camarines Sur

BK3003065994 Manila MANILA BULLETIN
in English 24 Mar 94 p 12

[Text] The Department of Health (DOH) reported yesterday an outbreak of typhoid fever cases in Camarines Sur in the Bicol region and a big drop in the number of measles cases in Region 12 (Central Mindanao).

In a report to Health Secretary Juan Flavier, the regional field health office in Region 12 said last January 1994, there were only three measles cases admitted to the Cotabato Regional Hospital compared to the 49 cases in 1993 in the same month. There was one measles case last February.

Flavier attributed the 95 percent decrease in the admission of measles cases to the previous National Immunization Day (NID) programs held nationwide.

The immunization coverage for measles in Region 12—Sultan Kudarat, Lanao del Norte, and North Cotabato—is 91 percent.

Also, the Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP) told Flavier the number of typhoid fever cases is rising in Sibobo, Calabanga, and Camarines Sur.

A team sent to the province last 1 February told Flavier that there were 34 identified cases in the area. The victims, whose ages range from 4 to 64, got sick after drinking contaminated water from a shallow well.

Flavier said 90 percent of children aged 12 to 59 months in the country got high-dose Vitamin A capsules during the nutrition service of the DOH dubbed "Araw ng Sangkap Pinoy [Day of Philippine Constituent]" last 16 October.

About 86 percent of pregnant women nationwide got iodized oil during the same health program.

TAIWAN

Health Official Reports 597 HIV Carriers, 106 AIDS Patients

OW1903080594 Taipei CNA in English 0747 GMT
19 Mar 94

[Report by Danielle Yang]

[Text] Taipei, March 19 (CNA)—An additional 18 HIV carriers have been discovered in Taiwan, bringing the total number of HIV positive people to 597, the Department of Health (DOH) announced Saturday [19 March].

In addition, the DOH reported that five more HIV carriers have developed AIDS-related complications, bringing the number of Taiwan residents with AIDS to 106.

Among the 18 who recently tested HIV positive, 16 were males and two female, the DOH said.

Most of the HIV carriers are between the ages of 20-40, the DOH added. Six claimed to be heterosexual, three homosexual and five told DOH officials that they had prior sexual contact with prostitutes.

THAILAND

Agreement Signed With UNDP on AIDS Prevention Program

BK1204074594 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network
in English 0000 GMT 12 Apr 94

[Excerpts] Thailand and the United Nations Development Program, UNDP, yesterday signed a program

support document for the HIV-AIDS Prevention and Care Program. [passage omitted]

The UNDP program is a partial support to the Thai Government's National Program on AIDS Prevention and Control 1992-1996. It comprises the community-based prevention and care interventions and a workplace AIDS initiatives which will focus in the north, the northeast, and the south of Thailand. The program will help increase the capacity of three universities—Chiang Mai, Khon Kaen, and Prince of Songkhla—to extend AIDS prevention and care-related training to government personnel, the private sector—including NGO's [non-governmental organizations] and community leaders—and enable managers of industrial estates and community leaders to train staff and develop training material in support of AIDS in a workplace program. UNDP contributions for the program amounted to \$900,000 for a three-year implementation.

Cancer in Children Attributed to Arsenic in Water

BK0704071494 Bangkok THE NATION in English
7 Apr 94 p A8

[Text] Seventeen per cent of primary students in Ron Phibun district, Nakhon Si Thammarat province, suffer a form of skin cancer as a result of ingesting arsenic toxins in the local water, a Nakhon Si Thammarat provincial official said yesterday.

Eighty per cent of all residents in Ron Phibun district and some residents in nearby districts have arsenic toxins in their bodies.

The official said local water supplies are polluted by arsenic in run-off from ancient tin mines.

Consumption of arsenic toxins results in an illness the villagers call Khai Dam, or black fever, and induces a kind of skin cancer which shows as black spots. A survey of 718 primary students showed 125 of them, or 17.4 per cent, have black spots on their skin, according to the official.

The official said authorities on Tuesday had agreed to arrange new water sources for the villagers.

It was also planned to dig new water wells in Ron Phibun district and to educate villagers about black fever disease.

Dr. Chanphen Chupraphawan, from the Thai Public Health Research Institute, said providing clean, unpolluted water would be an effective way to prevent the spread of black fever.

Chanphen said within the next four years, teenagers in Ron Phibun will have an 80 per cent risk of getting black fever, which could lead to cancer of the lung, kidney and liver.

VIETNAM**Quang Ninh Province Reports First Two HIV Cases**

BK2703130694 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 26 Mar 94

[Text] The director of the Quang Ninh Provincial Public Health Office reported that the first two HIV-infected persons were found recently in the province.

The first one is a young girl of 22 who worked at a massage parlor in a hotel on Bai Chay Street, Ha Long City. The second one is a young man who fled his home after learning of being infected by the virus.

HIV Cases Found in 30 Provinces, Cities

BK0204135694 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 2 Apr 94

[Text] According to the National Committee for Prevention and Control of AIDS, by 25 March, 30 provinces and cities were known to have HIV-positive cases totalling 1,243 people with 79 of them being foreigners.

There have been 18 deaths. The localities with highest numbers of patients are Ho Chi Minh City with 790, Khanh Hoa with 126, and Minh Hai with 34. Other provinces such as Song Be, Can Tho, Quang Nam-Danang, and An Giang have about 20 patients each.

Total of 1,321 HIV Cases Reported Nationwide

BK0804100294 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] Professor Le Dien Hong, deputy chairman of the National Committee for Preventing HIV/AIDS, reported that during the first three months of 1994, a total of 197 HIV cases were discovered. During the same period, 46 were admitted as AIDS patients and 14 died.

Thus far, the number of HIV cases in Vietnam has reached 1,321, among them 1,242 Vietnamese in 29 provinces and municipalities. Professor Le Dien Hong said, however, that the number of HIV infected persons in Vietnam is dramatically higher than the number made public. This is because we have not conducted surveys on certain groups of people such as prostitutes and drug addicts who are vulnerable to HIV.

Leprosy Eliminated in Binh Luc District

BK2403070194 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Text] The Binh Luc District of Nam Ha Province has eliminated leprosy in the entire district. Since 1983, the district has trained 1,400 medical staff in villages and communes, provided information to 24,000 students, and put up 28 information boards on leprosy. It has conducted surveys, established lists, and provided treatment to lepers. It has also discovered early cases of leprosy infection and provided timely treatment.

After more than 10 years, the Binh Luc District has completely eliminated leprosy and has changed the attitude of the local people to this disease.

REGIONAL AFFAIRS

Regional Health Report Through 1 April PA0204043394

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on regional public health and epidemiological developments monitored through 1 April.

Cuba

AIDS—Physician Rigoberto Torres, acting director of Santiago de Las Vegas Hospital, reported that there are "1,011 registered AIDS patients on the island; 256 of whom are currently showing symptoms of the disease and 164 of whom have died." He said that "although most patients are in the hospital, approximately 60 HIV-positive patients are being treated as outpatients." Santiago de Las Vegas Hospital is the country's primary facility for the treatment of AIDS and is located approximately 20 km from Havana. There are 11 hospitals in the country that treat AIDS. (Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 1456 GMT 30 Mar 94)

Guatemala

Cholera—Authorities have reported 50 new cholera cases in Palinche de Palin in Escuintla, one of which was fatal, and 10 new cases in Quetzaltenango. (Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 28 Mar 94 p 58)

Panama

STD's—Epidemiology Director Dr. Washington Loo has reported that syphilis, gonorrhea, and pelvic inflammation are the most common sexually transmitted diseases in Panama City. The number of latent early syphilis cases increased from 96 in 1992 to 190 in 1993, and nonspecific syphilis increased from 78 cases in 1992 to approximately 118 cases in 1993. Dr. Loo said the number of gonorrhea cases has dropped from 701 in 1992 to 534 in 1993. He noted, however, that many people treat themselves and are therefore not included in the official figures. (Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 28 Mar 94 p 78)

Tuberculosis—Physician Pablo Acosta, epidemiologist at the Jose Domingo De Obaldia Hospital in David, Chiriqui, has reported 20 cases of tuberculosis in January and February 1994. He reported that 126 cases were registered in 1991; 90 in 1992; and 111 cases—11 of which were fatal—in 1993. (Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 30 Mar 94 p 8a)

Regional Health Report Through 8 April PA0904035994

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on regional public health and epidemiological developments monitored through 8 April.

Costa Rica

Dengue Fever—Costa Rican health authorities reported the reappearance of dengue in Alajuela, 25 km north of the capital, with the confirmation of nine new cases. Health Vice Minister Emilia Leon told the media that although only nine cases were confirmed, it is believed that many more cases are undetected. Leon indicated that this is the first time that dengue cases have been recorded in the Central Valley area, where San Jose and three other major cities are located. More than 50 percent of the country's 3.2 million inhabitants live in this area. (Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1842 GMT 8 Apr 94)

El Salvador

Cholera—at least 70 cholera cases were recorded in San Salvador between 28 March and 2 April, according to a report by San Salvador hospital paramedic units. A Rosales Hospital cholera unit spokesperson disclosed that since last Monday, at least five people per day have been admitted to the hospital with cholera symptoms. Most of the people admitted live in shantytowns bordering San Salvador. (Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1740 GMT 2 Apr 94)

Nicaragua

Cholera—The Nicaraguan Health Ministry announced today that 15 cholera deaths and 683 proven cases had been recorded in the country during the first three months of the year. A Health Ministry spokesperson indicated that the majority of cases recorded during the year were in Jinotega, Matagalpa, and Managua Departments and in the Southern Atlantic Autonomous Region. According to an official report, 220 deaths and 6,631 cases were recorded during 1993, while 43 deaths and 3,039 cases were detected in 1992. The first cholera case in Nicaragua was detected in November 1991 in a two-month-old child living in a Managua shantytown near the U.S. Embassy. (Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2214 GMT 7 Apr 94)

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Southern Cone Health Report Through 31 March PY3103212394

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on epidemics and diseases monitored through 31 March.

Brazil

Chlorea—The mayor of Sao Vicente, Sao Paulo State, has declared a state of emergency because of a cholera outbreak. There already have been 10 confirmed cholera cases, one fatal, and 48 more suspected cases. Contamination has been from eating fish, but also only 17 percent of the town has a sewage system. (Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 29 Mar 94)

Chile

Meningitis—The experimental vaccination of 700 adults and children against meningitis to test the effectiveness of 1,500 doses of vaccine donated by Cuba and Norway started on 14 March. (Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 15 Mar 94 pp C1, C4)

Paraguay

AIDS—AIDS is spreading faster among those between 20 and 34 years old. Official data reports 288 carriers and 68 patients, 43 of whom have died already. (Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 27 Mar 94 p 34)

Peru

Chlorea—More than 250 cholera cases have been reported in Chimbote since January. Between 17 and 18

cases are reported daily at the La Caleta Hospital. (Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0300 GMT 25 Mar 94)

Bubonic plague—So far, 55 bubonic plague cases, including three deaths, have been reported this year in Cajamarca, Contumaza, San Pablo, and San Miguel Provinces have been affected most. Health officials report that two people died of the disease in Contumaza and one in San Pablo. So far, 23 bubonic plague cases have been reported in Contumaza, 22 in San Pablo, and seven in San Miguel. (Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 20 Mar 94 p 22)

Southern Cone Health Report Through 7 April PY0804012194

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on epidemics and diseases monitored through 7 April.

Argentina

Chlorea—The Health and Social Action Ministry on 7 April reported that three new cholera cases were registered in Salta and Jujuy Provinces in the past 24 hours. The number of people infected with the disease nationwide now totals 857. (Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1833 GMT 7 Apr 94)

Bolivia

Hemorrhagic Fever—Hemorrhagic fever, which used to be endemic in San Ramon and San Joaquin Districts in Beni Department, has reappeared after 15 years. Most of the victims are people who arrive from other places and have not developed an immunity to this disease. The carriers of this virus are certain types of rats which have been multiplying very quickly because of a mass hunt for cats that has been taking place for unknown reasons. Four cases of hemorrhagic fever have been reported in San Ramon and San Joaquin so far this year, but only one person has died from it. (La Paz Television Nacional Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 6 Apr 94)

Brazil

Chlorea—The Adolfo Lutz Institute has reported that seven new cholera cases were registered this past weekend on the coast of Sao Paulo State near the city of Santos, raising the total number in the region to 23. (Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 4 Apr 94 p A11)

Cholera—Amazonas State Health Secretary Abelardo Pampolla reported on 6 April that the number of cholera cases registered in his state from January to 30 March totalled 12: seven in the interior of the state and five in the capital. He attributes the decrease in the number of cholera cases to prevention work being conducted in the region, despite closeness to the Peruvian border, where nearly 200 cholera cases are registered for

each 100,000 residents. (Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 6 Apr 94)

Meningitis—The Piaui State epidemiology control coordinator has reported that since January, 207 meningitis cases have been registered in the state. She pointed out that the number of meningitis cases in the state in 1993 totalled only 430. Most of this year's cases were registered in Teresina, and were of the meningococcic type caused by a bacteria. (Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 7 Apr 94)

Southern Cone Health Report Through 28 April
PY2804173594

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on epidemics and diseases monitored through 28 April:

Argentina

AIDS—Buenos Aires Province Senator Luis Perez Luzuriaga on 21 April reported that 35 new AIDS carriers per week are being registered in Quilmes District, 22 in Avellaneda District, and 70 in La Matanza District, Buenos Aires Province. He said AIDS carriers rose by 1,700 percent from 1982 to 1992, and that 75 percent of the current 80,000 HIV-positive carriers are men. (Buenos Aires PAGINA 12 in Spanish 22 Apr 94 p 17)

Bolivia

Malaria—Regional Health Secretariat official Pastor Borda has reported that 2,877 malaria cases were registered in Tarija Department in the first three months of the year. The number of cases was just 1,366 in the same period in 1993. (Santa Cruz EL MUNDO in Spanish 12 Apr 94 National Section p 1)

Malaria—Malaria outbreaks in the region of the Manurimi River, the Beni River, and the Madre de Dios River have been reported. The report indicates that at least 200 people have died in the last few months from this disease. Doctor Cubas who is in charge of the struggle against malaria in Riberalta said the government is not sending insecticides. He added that of the 370 rural settlements near rivers and roads, 266 have malaria problems. He admitted that at least 200 people have died in the last few months. (La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 22 Apr 94)

Brazil

Hepatitis—Health Unit Director Hamilton Torres reported that a Type-A hepatitis outbreak is affecting the city of Sao Jose do Rio Pardo, where more than 80 cases have been registered so far this year. (Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 25 Apr 94 p A14)

Uruguay

Hepatitis—Health authorities reported in the past few hours that 70 cases of hepatitis have been registered in the city of Young, Rio Negro Department. Some 80 percent of those affected are children. (Montevideo EL PAIS in Spanish 19 Apr 94 p 15)

Roundup of Regional Epidemiological Developments Through April 17

PA1804015694

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on regional public health and epidemiological developments monitored through 17 April.

Costa Rica

Dengue fever—A new outbreak of dengue fever has been detected in Alajuela Province, near the capital, and over 100 people have been admitted to hospitals with symptoms of the illness, health officials have reported. (Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1157 GMT 13 Apr 94)

AIDS—The increase in the number of AIDS cases among adolescents, 16 percent of all reported cases, has led health, religious, and education authorities to coordinate strategies to educate young people in the prevention of the epidemic. A total of 586 cases of AIDS have been reported in Costa Rica since the first case was detected in 1985. (Madrid EFE in Spanish 0006 GMT 14 Apr 94)

Guatemala

Cholera—According to the latest statistics, cholera has killed 587 and infected a total of 52,107 persons since the disease first appeared in the country in 1991, the Guatemalan Health Ministry reported today. (Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0315 GMT 16 Apr 94)

Honduras

AIDS—Health Ministry officials confirmed on 15 April that 48 new cases of AIDS were reported in March. A total of 3,437 people have been infected with the virus since the first case was reported in Honduras in 1985. (Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0107 GMT 16 Apr 94)

Nicaragua

Cholera—A total of 17 Nicaraguans died in the first three months of 1994 as a result of the cholera epidemic, the Nicaraguan Health Ministry reported on 9 April. A total of 280 people have died of cholera in Nicaragua since the disease appeared in the country in 1991, according to the source. (Paris AFP in Spanish 1902 GMT 9 Apr 94)

Panama

AIDS—The Epidemiology Department of the Jose Domingo de Obaldia Hospital in Chiriqui Province has

reported that between 30 and 60 persons are infected with the AIDS virus every week in Panama. Currently there are 30 AIDS cases in Chiriqui Province. (Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 11 Apr 94 p 10A)

Tuberculosis—The number of tuberculosis cases increased by 50 percent with regard to last year, according to the chief of the national program against tuberculosis. The official said a total of 1,074 cases of tuberculosis were reported in 1993. In 1992 only 750 cases were reported. (Panama City Circuito KPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 11 Apr 94)

Cancer—The number of persons with cancer increased to 3,000 new cases per year, according to the Health Ministry's Medical Records and Health Statistics Department. Doctors are still trying to determine why Herrera Province has the highest cancer rate in the country. (Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 14 Apr 94 p 44)

Tuberculosis—Luis Vergara, chief of the Epidemiology Department of the Health Ministry in Veraguas Province, has reported that northern Veraguas Province has the highest tuberculosis rate in the country. Areas most adversely affected are Canazas, Santa Fe, and Las Palmas. (Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 17 Apr 94 p 13A)

Roundup of Regional Epidemiological Developments Through 22 April

PA2304193394

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on regional public health and epidemiological developments monitored through 22 April 1994.

Colombia

AIDS—The Health Ministry published a report on 17 April showing that AIDS cases are increasing among Colombian youths. The report says that 21 cases of youths infected with AIDS have been reported in the first three months of the year. According to the report, youths between the ages of 15 and 24 represent the segment of the population with the higher chance of contracting AIDS. Over the last 10 years, the Health Ministry reported 1,304 cases of AIDS in people between the ages of 5 and 24. In sum, health officials said that 8,527 cases have been reported thus far in the country. (Paris AFP in Spanish 1932 GMT 17 Apr 94)

Costa Rica

Dengue fever—Deputy Health Minister Emilia Leon has said that 227 new cases of dengue fever have been reported in the Alajuela metropolitan area, only 20 km north of the capital. Dengue fever had been limited to the northern Province of Guanacaste where more than 6,000 cases have been reported since October 1993. The deputy health minister concluded that the dengue outbreak has not been controlled and that more cases are

expected in the next few days. (Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0317 GMT 20 Apr 94)

Ecuador

Diphtheria—Outbreaks of diphtheria in Ecuador are more serious than health officials have recognized, Jorge Camba, president of the Medical Federation, reported 21 April. Health Minister Patricio Abad said that some 150 cases were reported in three cities, but Camba remarked that there may be between 800 and 1,000 cases there. Health official Efrain Pacheco said 144 cases have been reported in Quito alone. (Paris AFP in Spanish 2139 GMT 21 Apr 94)

Guatemala

Cholera—Health authorities reported on 18 April at least 62 news cases of cholera have been registered in recent days in Guatemala. Health Minister Gustavo Hernandez reported 37 cases were registered in Guatemala City hospitals. Meanwhile, officials said 25 other cases were reported in Alotenango, Sacatepequez Department. A health official concluded 595 people have died of cholera since the first case was reported in the country in 1991, while 51,579 cases have been reported since. (Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2257 GMT 18 Apr 94)

Nicaragua

Diarrhea—The Health Ministry has reported that 56,000 cases of diarrhea and 81 diarrhea-related fatalities have been registered during the first four months of the year. A health official explained the departments most affected by diarrhea are Matagalpa, Jinotega, Carazo, Masaya, Chinandega, and Leon. The official said the increase in cases of diarrhea is the result of neglect in hygiene practices. The official concluded 751 children died of diarrhea last year. (Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 21 Apr 94)

Panama

AIDS—Luis Vergara, director of the Health Ministry Epidemiological Department in Veraguas Province, has reported an increase in AIDS cases in that province. Vergara stated 14 cases of AIDS have been reported thus far. The official concluded one or two cases are reported monthly in the province, while last year one case was discovered every four months. (Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 18 Apr 94 p 15A)

AIDS—A health official has reported one 30-year-old person died of AIDS in Colon Province in March. Additionally, he reported three new cases of AIDS were registered in March. Authorities explained eight people have died of AIDS in Colon so far this year compared to 13 AIDS-related fatalities in all of 1993. (Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 18 Apr 94 p C9)

Venezuela

AIDS—Health authorities reported on 22 April that Venezuela has registered the third largest number of AIDS cases in Latin America, following Brazil and Argentina. A health expert revealed there are currently 4,000 people with AIDS and between 150,000 and 200,000 carrying the virus. (Paris AFP in Spanish 1926 GMT 22 Apr 94)

Roundup of Regional Epidemiological Developments Through 29 April

PA3004034894

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on regional public health and epidemiological developments monitored through 29 April.

Colombia

Tuberculosis—Tuberculosis is dangerously gaining ground with 9,000 new cases each year, mainly in areas such as Buenaventura and Tumaco. (Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 20 Apr 94)

Costa Rica

Dengue—There have been 40 confirmed dengue cases reported in Alajuela and 150 suspected cases. (San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 16 Apr 94 p 10a)

Guatemala

Cholera—Health officials report that six persons have died and 45 others are under medical care following an outbreak of cholera in San Juan Alotenago Municipality, Sacatepequez Department. (Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 25 Apr p 4)

Rabies—The Union of Health Services Workers, Sitrass, said on 26 April that "at least one person has died of rabies and at least another 60 are infected." Health Minister Gustavo Hernandez denies there is an epidemic. (Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2326 GMT 26 Apr 94)

AIDS—The Guatemalan Association of AIDS Prevention and Control reported on 28 April that over 50,000 persons are infected. The government, on the other hand, reports only 1,132 cases. (Guatemala City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 29 Apr 94 p 3)

El Salvador

AIDS—Health Minister Dr. Lizandro Vasquez Sosa reports that cases of AIDS have reached alarming proportions, with 1,600 persons infected out of which a great number have already died. AIDS was first reported in El Salvador in 1987. (San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 23 Apr 94)

Mexico

AIDS—National AIDS Council officials report that Mexico has the third highest number of AIDS cases on the American continent, following the United States and Brazil. It was reported that every year there are 5,000 new cases and that if behavior goes unchecked, by the year 2000 there could be as many as 100,000 cases. (Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0354 GMT 24 Apr 94)

Nicaragua

Cholera—Santa Rosa de Penon Municipality, Leon Department, reports two deaths due to cholera plus nine people who are in serious condition. (Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 23 Apr 94 p 4)

Meningitis—Meningitis cases detected by the Health Ministry have worsened, with a death toll of 16 over a two night period, according to Dr. Carlos Rodriguez. The outbreak was detected in San Francisco de Carnicerio, where most of the deaths have occurred. Rural areas in Masaya, Carazo, Matagalpa, and Chontales follow. There are 120 cases being treated in Managua clinics and hospitals. (Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 27 Apr 94)

Panama

AIDS—Health Ministry officials report an alarming increase of AIDS cases in Veraguas Province with four cases in 1994. There were four cases in the whole of 1993. Since it first appeared in 1984, there have been 17 cases, of which 12 have died. It is estimated that there could be as many as 1,070 cases in Veraguas. (Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 24 Apr 94 p a12)

AIDS—Health Ministry officials report 372 deaths due to AIDS and that Panama is in second place in Central America. Through 31 March there were 644 cases reported; 545 males and 99 females. (Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 27 Apr 94 p 48)

CUBA

HIV-Positive Outpatient Program Described

FL3103162594 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1230 GMT 31 Mar 94

[Text] Rigoberto Torres, deputy director of the sanatorium in Santiago de las Vegas, has announced that there are approximately 60 HIV-positive people participating in the outpatient treatment program. Although most seropositive people are in sanatoriums, outpatient treatment has been used for years with certain patients, who continue to work and who live at home. Lately, the number of such people has increased.

To place members in the outpatient program, an evaluation and guidance committee, made up of specialists in

internal medicine, epidemiologists, psychologists, nurses [words indistinct] the patients of the essential requirements.

Torres, who is deputy director of the largest of Cuba's 11 AIDS sanatoriums, added that HIV-positive patients must watch over their own and other people's health, become responsible, stay with the same sexual partner and, if changing partners, inform the new partner that they are HIV-positive.

Havana Cites AIDS Figures, New Ambulatory Program

FL3103222894 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 31 Mar 94

[Text] Dr. Rigoberto Torres, an expert on AIDS, has told this newscast that despite significant economic limitations, over 60 participants in a new ambulatory program have their food supplies guaranteed and the same access to treatment and medicines as hospitalized patients. Torres added that the diet program includes eggs, meat, fish, milk, tubers, and vegetables to bolster the regular diet received by every Cuban citizen. However, Torres acknowledged that this special diet is below the 4,000-calorie diet the patients received while at the sanatoriums, and which is still being provided to those kept there.

The Cuban hospitalization program began in 1986. Since then, 1,011 HIV carriers have been detected. However, epidemiologists believe that there could be another 200 undetected cases. So far, 164 people have died of AIDS, 12 of them due to unrelated causes. Full-blown AIDS currently effects 256 individuals. The life expectancy of an HIV carrier in Cuba averages 12 years, while the average for AIDS cases is 1.5 years. These indexes are relatively high in comparison with world statistics.

Official Comments on Use of Vitamin Supplement After Neuropathy Epidemic

FL2503173094 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 25 Mar 94

[Excerpt] Several months after the neuropathy epidemic, only 37 percent of the population in Pinar del Rio takes the Neo-Vitaminic 2 vitamin supplement that is given to the population for free. This was determined through a survey carried out by the center of sociopolitical studies of the provincial committee of the Communist Party of Cuba in Pinar del Rio. The survey showed 40 percent do not use the supplement regularly, nine percent believe they do not need the supplement, eight percent took the supplement only for a few months, and three percent take other vitamins they consider more effective. [passage omitted]

ECUADOR

AIDS Situation in Azuay Observed

94WE0200C Quito EL COMERCIO in Spanish 23 Feb 94 p C-11

[Article: "A Dream Frustrated"; first paragraph is editorial introduction]

[Text] Motivated by poor economic prospects, many Ecuadorans have traveled to foreign countries to make more money. However, the AIDS epidemic caught them there.

Since 1984 30 persons have died from Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) in the Province of Azuay. The first person in this series of deaths was an emigrant who returned from the United States with this deadly disease.

About 20 persons having the HIV virus are being cared for at home or in health centers in Cuenca. Statistics add an additional 50 AIDS patients over the past decade in the Province of Azuay.

Of this total 10 persons were infected with the virus in foreign countries, while the remaining 40 caught the disease in Ecuador. This reveals the growing danger of the epidemic.

Oswaldo Munoz, chief of the Department of Epidemiology in the Directorate of Health of the Province of Azuay and professor of health at the University of Cuenca, considers that the Province of Azuay is one of the areas where the incidence of AIDS is a cause for concern, although the situation is less serious than in the Provinces of Guayas, Pichincha, and Manabi.

Munoz said that about 90 percent of those who have died from AIDS or suffer from the disease are men, which is explained by the fact that sexual promiscuity is more frequent among men than among women.

Although the Ministry of Health requires doctors to report cases of AIDS in a special way, it is impossible to be sure that the available, official information covers all of those suffering from the disease. However, it probably covers the majority of them.

The Department of Epidemiology of the Directorate of Health of the Province of Azuay has personnel and an office exclusively devoted to following the AIDS situation. It even holds workshops and distributes reading material with instructions on how to prevent this disease which has so far turned out to be incurable.

Munoz recalls that there is no vaccination or treatment for AIDS and recommends taking the only two valid precautions for preventing what is called the disease of the century: sexual fidelity and the use of condoms in extramarital intercourse.

Professor Munoz is the author of a guide for family self-instruction on AIDS, a book published by the Ministry of Health under the auspices of the World Health Organization and the Pan American Health Organization. The book contains basic information on the epidemic, its symptoms, and the population most at risk of contracting the disease, among other aspects.

The persons suffering from AIDS who have been identified in the Province of Azuay belong to a number of social and economic groups, which proves that AIDS is a disease which is not limited to any special sector of society. Rather, it attacks all groups, without distinction.

A high percentage of those infected are people who have traveled abroad in search of a better personal situation, particularly for economic reasons.

Malaria Cases Increasing Nationwide

94WE02004 Quito HOY in Spanish 23 Feb 94 p 8A

[Text] Guayaquil—Edgardo Montalvo, president of the College of Physicians of the Province of Guayas, has stated that the country is experiencing an epidemic of malaria. He announced that there are at least 100,000 cases of the disease, of which 46,200 have been reported by the National Service for the Eradication of Malaria (SNEM).

Montalvo said that he is deeply concerned. He stated that in 1992 39,600 positive cases of malaria were reported to the SNEM, which means about 72,000 total cases, since it is estimated that for each reported case of malaria there is another case which has not been reported.

In 1993 46,200 positive cases were reported to the SNEM, which would amount to a total of 100,000 persons affected by the disease. He stressed that in Guayaquil alone 12 persons died of malaria in 1993. He attributed the increased number of cases to the fact that there has not been a continuous process of spraying within and outside the home. He said that the principal officials of the SNEM are not specialists in the matter, and AID, the Agency for International Development, has stopped providing assistance to the SNEM, due to a series of labor, morale, and economic instability problems which have arisen. Montalvo said that the Province of Esmeraldas, where there are more than 12,000 cases of malaria, has become the area most seriously affected by the disease. Of those cases of malaria about 7,000 are of the so-called malignant type (Falsiparo) and more than 5,000 cases are of the so-called benign type (Viva).

The Province of Guayas comes next with somewhat less than 12,000 cases, 6,000 of which are of the benign type and 5,000 of the malignant type. In the Province of Manabi there are 7,000 cases of benign malaria and 3,000 cases of malignant malaria. In the other coastal Provinces of Los Rios and El Oro, as well as adjacent upland areas in the Province of Austro, there are also about 15,000 cases of malaria.

Dengue, Malaria Cases in Guayaquil Reported

94WE0200B Quito EL COMERCIO in Spanish
10 Feb 94 p D-3

[Article: "Health Programs Approved"; first paragraph is editorial introduction]

[Text] Guayaquil—Dengue fever has been reported in the Ayacucho, Ximena, Tarqui, and Febres Cordero areas of Guayaquil. Heavy rains are falling on the city and the neighboring countryside, although the Office of Civil Defense of the Province of Guayas has not reported serious damage from the downpour of 9 February.

Health authorities in the City of Guayaquil are combining their efforts to prevent and fight against endemic diseases such as hemorrhagic dengue fever, malaria, and cholera, among other illnesses.

Furthermore, efforts are being made to avoid the duplication of effort, the waste of materials, and squandering of human and financial resources.

On 9 February technically qualified persons, including Liria Mendoza, subsecretary of health, and officials of the municipal health service, reviewed the situation at a meeting held at the Municipal Offices of Guayaquil. The meeting was presided over by Luis Chiriboga, vice president of the Municipal Council of Guayaquil.

The meeting became necessary due to an outbreak of classic dengue fever and an increase in malaria in several outlying areas of the city.

Cases of dengue fever have been reported in the densely populated areas of Ayacucho, Ximena, Tarqui, and Febres Cordero, with 94, 343, 133, and 249 persons affected, respectively.

Regarding malaria, more than 500 persons have been reported as suffering from the disease in the Flor de Bastion area, a heavily populated section North of Guayaquil.

The persons affected by malaria are receiving specialized medical care, and no deaths have been reported so far, nor has any case of hemorrhagic dengue fever been recorded.

At the same time heavy rains are falling on Guayaquil and the surrounding province, although, according to the Office of Civil Defense of the Province of Guayas, no substantial damage has been reported, following the downpour of rain on 9 February.

The regions most affected by the diseases are the outlying, residential areas of Guayaquil, because they do not have paved streets, safe drinking water, sewage systems, and other modern city services.

Large lakes of water and mud have been left by the rains, and food is being sold in town squares and other places under unsanitary conditions.

The City of Guayaquil will work with personnel from other services in the area of environmental health to reduce or eliminate pools of water, where disease-carrying mosquitoes breed.

Subsecretary Liria Mendoza participated in the technical assessment of the situation, as she has greater experience in spraying insecticides, through the National Service for the Eradication of Malaria. She will also provide insecticides, mosquito netting, and other materials.

Antonio Martinez, director of health services of the City of Guayaquil, said that if we do not act in an aggressive way, we will run the risk of having cases of hemorrhagic dengue fever and an increase in other diseases. He explained that, in addition to spraying ponds and pools of water, his service will provide free medical service in outlying residential areas, thanks to which possible outbreaks of epidemics can be detected.

The municipal Departments of Sewage and Public Works will also take part in efforts to prevent disease

through cleaning drains and draining ponds, canals, and other areas where rainwater has accumulated.

A serious case has occurred in the Bastion residential area, where stagnant water has caused a major outbreak of malaria affecting 85 percent of the people living there. For this reason work to drain pools of water is being undertaken on an emergency basis.

According to technically qualified sources, the increase of malaria is in the pernicious form of the virus which causes the disease.

In the outlying, Bastion area ponds of rain water have formed which the authorities should drain immediately to prevent an increase in the disease.

The people have an important role to play in resolving the problem. They should cooperate in cleaning up back yards and gardens, draining ponds and puddles of water, and disposing of objects where water can collect.

ALGERIA

Typhoid 'Epidemic'; Students Protest

94WE0227A Algiers *LE SOIR D'ALGERIE* in French
3 Mar 94 p 3

[Article by A. Allia: "Tyhpoid Epidemic in Annaba"]

[Text] Annaba—Alarmed by rumors of a typhoid epidemic, students at the 2,000-bed university housing complex in Sidi Amar (Annaba) are raising their voices and demanding strong public health measures to stop spread of the disease.

Health officials in the wilaya of Annaba admit there was an outbreak of typhoid but say major problems were avoided. According to Mr. Messikh, a public health official, the first typhoid case was reported to the health service on 13 February. Other cases followed in the second half of the same month, bringing the number of patients under observation to 38. After analysis, it was determined that eight people have been stricken with the malady, including two cases that required surgical intervention. The six others were treated on an out-patient basis.

According to the Health Department, the epidemic was caused by a "cross-connection" (contamination of a potable water conduit with waste water) at the university housing complex. Investigation by a team of specialists disclosed the fact, unbeknownst to local water authority officials, that a state-owned road repair enterprise had failed to protect the potable water conduit. Holes had been hastily plugged with packed earth, creating pools of stagnant waste water. What is so bizarre about these revelations is that only the water supply to the university housing complex was contaminated, while external branch conduits have remained untainted.

At all events, according to Dr. Boumaiza, the situation is far from alarming. All appropriate steps have been taken to deal with the situation. With the ORSEC [Emergency Preparedness Plan] plan going into effect early this week, reinforcements arrived to beef up the medical corps detachment assigned to the Sidi Amar COSU [University Student Council]. Eleven health teams are conducting numerous typhoid awareness meetings for the students.

A round-the-clock investigative unit was dispatched to Sidi Amar, along with three laboratories for bacteriological testing, in hopes of totally eradicating the epidemic. A dramatic response, but one that will fail unless paired with draconian public hygiene measures. Responsibility for such measures belongs to COSU officials, Dr. Mes-sikh concluded.

The DSPS [public health office] of Annaba wilaya notes that several other wilayas are also affected by the typhoid

epidemic. The number of people infected is not alarming but is worth reporting to the general public:

- Skikda: 11 cases
- Khenchela: one case
- Biskra: one case
- Oum El-Bouaghi: one case
- Mila: one case
- Tebessa: two cases
- Jijel: two cases
- Batna: one case
- Constantine: one case.

INDIA

AIDS Assumes Menacing Proportions in Bihar

94WE0231A Bombay *THE TIMES OF INDIA* in English 19 Feb 94 p 3

[Text] Patna, Feb. 18—AIDS is threatening to assume a menacing proportion in Bihar with 61 HIV positive cases being recorded till last December. Out of the 61 HIV positive cases, 13 have been declared full blown cases of AIDS after the Western Blot test.

A senior official of the health department, preparing anonymity, said the maximum number of Elisa as well as Western Blot positive cases have been reported from Patna where 41 HIV and eight Western Blot positive cases had been detected so far.

AIDS Being Acquired Through Transfusions

94WE0231B Bombay *THE TIMES OF INDIA* in English 24 Feb 94 p 5

[Article by Ajay Bharadwaj: "Blood Donors Spread AIDS in Punjab"]

[Text] Amritsar, February 23—Bhiru has a family of five with whom he lives in a shabby corner of the railway platform here. Four years ago, he came here from Bihar looking for work. To begin with, he tried doing menial jobs which, being a drug addict, he found too difficult.

He then took to begging, until he stumbled down the more lucrative profession of selling blood. He says an agent from a private blood bank offered him Rs 40 for a bottle. From then, he has been a "regular blood donor," his only means of livelihood.

There are more than 150 such Bhirus in the city, inhabiting public parks, railway platforms and busstands, who sell their blood to eke out a living. The dealers have identified them according to their blood groups and whenever they need a particular blood type, the professional donors are summoned.

In the absence of adequate government facilities, private blood banks and nursing homes pay their donors about Rs 50 to Rs 70 for a unit, the charge between Rs 400 and Rs 700 from patient. The price shoots up if it is a scarce group like "O" negative.

However, what is causing concern are the impurities and diseases transmitted through the blood, since the donors live in unhygienic conditions.

A recent case, in which a patient acquired the AIDS virus after getting transfusion at a private hospital here, is considered to be the tip of the iceberg. The patient had tested HIV negative when he was admitted.

Doctors do not discount the possibility that many more similar cases may have gone unnoticed, the patient falling prey to an un-related disease many years later.

According to the health authorities, of the 54 AIDS cases detected in the city so far, 17 are believed to have been acquired through blood transfusion.

Private blood banks are loathe to conduct the mandatory tests as they would cost about Rs 350 per donor. But in the absence of such checks, diseases like malaria, hepatitis and AIDS can get through.

Amritsar is the only city in the state where licences have been issued to private blood banks, and a move is afoot to cancel them. But the owners have obtained stay orders from the court and thus the business continues.

Though there are three licenced dealers in the city, they have opened retail outlets near all the prominent government hospitals. These were sealed by the authorities last week after an AIDS case was detected there.

In nursing homes, too, blood banks are operating illegally. Relatives or friends of patients are made to donate blood with the nursing home keeping a part of it as their commission.

The condition of the government-run blood banks, too, is far from satisfactory as there are hardly any regular donors or storage facilities.

Iodine Deficiency Causes 30,000 Still-Births Per Year

BK2303142594 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English
19 Mar 94 p 2

[Text] New Delhi—More than 30,000 babies in India are estimated to be still-born every year, and over 1,20,000 are born cretins—mentally retarded, physically stunted, deaf-mute or paralysed—due to iodine deficiency in mothers, reports PTI.

Disclosing this and other adverse effects of iodine deficiency, Executive Director of International Council for Control of Iodine Deficiency Disorders (ICCID), Basil S Hetzel, said here on Friday that the need for iodine starts even before a child is born.

He said the total number of still births and neonatal deaths attributable to iodine deficiency was over 90,000. "If the mother is iodine deficient, the foetus too suffers iodine deficiency."

When a child is deprived of its iodine needs during the period the brain is developing—last six months of pregnancy to the first post-natal year—the consequences could be disastrous, Hetzel said.

Describing women of child bearing age and children under the age of 15 years as most susceptible to iodine deficiency disorders, he said the most common and visible ill-effect is goitre, an abnormal swelling in the neck.

Polio Vaccination Program Deemed a Success

94WE0201A Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA
in English 14 Feb 94 p 3

[Text] Ahmedabad, February 13—Poliomyelitis, one of the childhood's crippling scourges, will soon be a disease of the past in Gujarat, thanks to the massive vaccination programme that was launched by the state government some eight years back.

Already Gujarat stands on the threshold of totally wiping it out; it is in 'control grade'.

By the end of the present century, just six years from now, the dreaded disease will be declared "eradicated," as is the goal set by the World Health Organisation and the Centre, the minister of state for health, Mr. Shaktisinh Gohil, confidently says.

Already, consulting paediatricians and orthopaedic surgeons conform the decline in cases. In fact, Dr. Kumar Nathani, a city paediatrician, said he had seen just seven new cases of polio during the last seven years. "All we treat now are the old cases," said Dr. Nathani and his physiotherapist wife, Yamini.

An orthopaedic surgeon, Dr. Bharat Bhagat, also asserts that the disease is fast declining. He should know, being the managing trustee of Polio Foundation, which has organised 40 free polio camps till date, where 15,600 cases, mostly old cases, were examined and 2,120 corrective surgical operations were performed.

Government statistics show that in the first year of the massive vaccination programme launched in 1985-86, as many as 1,012 cases were registered in Gujarat. This fell to 650 in 1986-87, 156 in 1987-88, then went on rising to 323 in 1991-92 and then fell again during the last two years to 77 till November last.

As per the survey report in June 1993, declining trends in the occurrence of poliomyelitis are being recorded at the national level, as well as in many well-performing states and within several districts of other states.

The national mass vaccination programme, launched by the Centre since 1985-86, has also made a significant dent in the occurrence of polio cases. In a single 12-month period, 20 million children were contacted at least five times, it adds.

Before launching of the mass vaccination programme, the virulence of the disease in the country was so extensive that every year some 200,000 children used to suffer from the disease and 2,000 of them used to die.

According to a survey conducted by the Union government then, over 60 per cent of the children became lame due to polio before reaching their second birthday. Percent-wise polio resulting in physical deformities was 67.6 in urban areas, while in the rural areas, the percent was even higher—up to 71.6. In Gujarat, for instance, it was reported to be 69 and 71.7 per cent in urban and rural areas, respectively.

Mr. Gohil states that the government took special care to enlist the help of panchayats and anganwadi workers to reach ashram schools and anganwadis in deep interiors and inaccessible areas to make the programme really effective.

To avert the usual occurrence of the disease on a wider scale during the monsoon months, the minister says that a mop-up system has been put in practice, where two doses of polio vaccine are administered to all children up to the age of three years in March and April.

From the beginning of the massive vaccination drive, the government took the help of local bodies, medical associations and also several voluntary organisations, like Rotary Club, the latter even launching a 'Polio Plus' programme of its own.

The government, and the medical profession aver that the credit for the success must go to the mass media, particularly to the visual TV media, which gave wide and regular publicity to the programme, educating the masses, both in the urban and rural areas.

The 'control grade' for polio, which Gujarat has attained, is a predecessor to the 'elimination grade', when not a single case is registered in any of the districts. The next stage will be one where not a single case is registered in a three-year period. This will come around the year 2,000, it is expected.

Specific goals set up by the government for other diseases include elimination of neonatal tetanus in all districts by 1995, reduction in measles cases by 90 per cent by 1995 compared to the 1985 level, reduction of deaths and cases due to diarrhoeal diseases by 30 per cent and ten per cent by 1985 and 70 per cent and 25 per cent by the end of this century.

According to many private doctors and specialists, this mass vaccination programme for various childhood diseases has been most effective and the declining trend is not confined to poliomyelitis, but also in other childhood scourges such as measles, diphtheria, whooping cough and neonatal tetanus, which cause deaths, debilities and deformities (physical).

They are also confident, like the government, that these diseases will be declared eradicated in Gujarat in the

coming years in the same fashion as small pox was declared eradicated from the world women 18 years ago.[sentence as printed]

IRAN

Ministry Reports Construction of Rural Medical Centers

NC2703202894 Tehran *Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network* in Persian 0345 GMT 27 Mar 94

[Commentary by News Research and Commentary Group]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The Health, Treatment, and Medical Education Ministry spent 2 billion rials and, in addition, the World Bank collaborated and allocated \$300 million for the construction of rural medical and treatment centers. The rate of increase of Iran's population in the past year was reduced from 3.2 percent to 2.2 percent. With its population control, the Islamic Republic of Iran has reduced the average number of children in a family from five to 3.2. On this basis, the family planning program was pursued intensively and seriously. [passage omitted]

New 200-Bed Hospital Inaugurated

94LA0103I Tehran *JAHAN-E ESLAM* in Persian 9 Feb 94 p 5

[Text] Urmia, JAHAN-E ESLAM correspondent—The 200-bed hospital affiliated with the special Azerbaijan Physician's Group Corporation was opened. The opening was attended by Dr. Habibi, first vice president of the republic, and his delegation.

Our correspondent reports that this hospital, with an area of 4,245 square meters on five floors and with 10,000 square meters of foundation, was put into operation.

This hospital has 24 stockholders, and it was put into operation with capital of more than 10 billion rials.

IRAQ

Health Ministry Claims 'Success' in Combating AIDS

JN2403115394 Baghdad INA in English 1110 GMT 24 Mar 94

[Text] Baghdad, Mar 24, (INA)—Iraqi Health Ministry confirmed the success of its preventive measures against

the virus of Acquired Immunity Deficiency Syndrome [AIDS], thus keeping Iraq clean from this fatal disease.

Official source at the Ministry told INA today, since early stages, health authorities in Iraq gave this particular issue a great deal of concern to prevent this disease which had recently invaded most of the world regions.

The Ministry was imposing strict measures on blood tests for incomers and carried out examinations on imported human blood to verify being free of the AIDS virus.

The source made it clear that some AIDS [cases] had been recorded in the northern part of Iraq after the 30-state aggression of 1991 which had given access to the foreign troops inside the Kurdish autonomy area the matter that left this region beyond the monitoring of health authorities.

The source concluded by saying that further precautions had been adopted by the Iraqi authorities to prevent the spread of AIDS from the area lies under the control of the pro-Western elements to the rest parts of the country. [Sentence as received]

Paper Cites UNICEF Report on Infant Death Rates

JN2803144894 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic
21 Mar 94 p 4

[Report by AL-THAWRAH correspondent 'Ali al-Na'a'as]

[Text] A study compiled by UNICEF says that 12 percent of Iraqi children under five years of age suffer from acute malnutrition due to the economic blockade imposed on our country.

The study added that the death rate among children has also increased so that deaths among breast-feeding children are estimated at 92 out of every 1,000 births, and deaths among children below the age of five are estimated at 128 out of every 1,000 live births.

Regarding health and other environmental effects of the economic blockade on our Iraqi people, the study has noted that several diseases—such as measles, polio, diphtheria, and dysentery—which could have been prevented by vaccination, have reappeared in Iraq due to the embargo on medicines. The Ministry of Health has organized a joint campaign with UNICEF in order to control these diseases.

Regarding water supply and sewage networks, the study noted that these networks have been seriously affected by the economic embargo, which has caused a shortage of spare parts and support equipment. This has led to a scarcity of drinking water both in the cities and in rural areas.

The blockade has also had a great effect on elementary education. The UNICEF report said that the great

shortage in school's requisites and equipment has lowered the standard of education and increased the number of failures, especially among girls.

Seminar on Health Situation Notes Problems, Deficiencies

JN0404092194 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic
9 Mar 94

[Editorial Report] Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic on 9 March publishes an approximately 4,000-word report on a four-hour seminar held by the newspaper on the health situation in Iraq and the performance of the Iraqi Ministry of Health. The date of the seminar is not given. The seminar, which is moderated by AL-JUMHURIYAH Chief Editor Salah al-Mukhtar, hosts Dr. Shawqi Murqus, senior under secretary of the Iraqi Ministry of Health, several Health Ministry officials, and a number of specialist physicians.

The moderator opens the seminar by stating that the Ministry of Health has become the subject of criticism, as people have continued to air their grievances regarding the health services rendered to citizens. He adds that some of these grievances are justified, while others lack accuracy. He acknowledges that there are some loopholes that need to be plugged, and that some individual practices need to be corrected. He maintains that those voicing criticism have forgotten that Iraq is subjected to a medicine embargo that is denying Iraq free access to medical requirements. He then invites the AL-JUMHURIYAH press team to ask their questions and voice their remarks regarding the health situation in the country.

One reporter complains of uncleanliness and malnutrition in state-owned hospitals. Another reporter notes the scarcity of children vaccines and medicine shortages at these hospitals. He adds that some medical employees are asking for, and obtaining bribes. He also notes the deterioration in the performance of some high tech medical equipment. Furthermore, he charges that private medical institutions are charging high prices. To corroborate their arguments, reporters cite grievances contained in letters received by the paper.

Responding to these grievances, Dr. Shawqi Murqus, senior under secretary of the Iraqi Ministry of Health, pays tribute to the Iraqi medical institutions and personnel for protecting Iraq against epidemics in war conditions. Had it not been for the conscientiousness, honesty, and personal integrity of Iraqi medical personnel, epidemics would have spread in Iraq in the aftermath of the Gulf war, Dr. Murqus adds.

Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic on 14 March continues to report on the seminar held by the paper on the health situation in Iraq. It publishes on page seven an approximately 4,500-word report on the seminar prepared by Nu'man Sirt and Asma' Muhammad Mustafa.

In this report, Dr. Murqus notes the "criminal economic embargo" clamped on Iraq, and its repercussions on the health situation in the country. To show how difficult it is for the Iraqi Ministry of Health to purchase medicines, he cites Britain's "inhumanity", as illustrated by its failure to authorize the shipment to Iraq of medicines for angina pectoris, although Iraq had concluded agreements in this regard with British medicine manufacturers.

Dr. Murqus adds: "The British Government has banned the shipment of Angised, a product of Bruce Wellcome, although the British manufacturer had received the cost of the purchases, which totaled \$150,000. The British are well aware that this medicine is used by angina pectoris victims, and that the failure to supply patients with it could lead to death."

When pressed further, citing Iraq's need for this medicine, the British Government replied that the medicine in question contains small granules of a material called glyceryl trinitrate, and contended that trinitrate is used in the production of explosives.

With regard to the services the Iraqi Ministry of Health is rendering to the population, Dr. Murqus says: "The Ministry of Health provides 250,000 patients suffering from chronic illnesses with the necessary medicines throughout the year, without interruption. A one-month or two-month interruption in the supplies of these medicines means inevitable death. These medicines are dispensed to patients through government outlets, namely, popular clinics."

Dr. Murqus adds that the ability to provide these patients with medicines throughout the year since the enforcement of the UN sanctions is a "great accomplishment."

The Health Ministry official admits that some ministry medicines are sold on the black market. Nevertheless, he claims that Iraqi physicians are conscientious and creative, and that they are conducting sophisticated brain and heart surgery under the tough embargo circumstances. He also commends the efforts made by Iraqi preventive medicine personnel, who have protected Iraq from malaria and cholera. He says that cholera surfaced in the country in 1991 only to disappear in 1992. He also notes the services offered by the private medical institutions in the country, and admits that they charge high prices to patients. He expresses hope that the medical system in Iraq will be refurbished and developed once the embargo is lifted.

Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic on 21 March continues to report on the seminar held by the paper on the health situation in the country. It publishes on page 7 an approximately 4,000-word report on the seminar.

Dr. Murqus comments on remarks made by the reporters regarding the need for a police report before accident victims are admitted to hospital. The moderator cites

examples of doctors in state-owned health clinics prescribing medicines without examining patients, underscoring the seriousness of the problem. A Health Ministry official replies by saying that there will be stricter monitoring of medical practice. The moderator argues that the media should assist health institutions by monitoring the health situation in the country, enlightening citizens, and reporting problems and grievances.

Concluding the seminar, the moderator says that AL-JUMHURIYAH is ready to dedicate a weekly column to clarifications from the Ministry of Health in order to help the ministry enlighten people and clarify some matters which might have been misunderstood by the public.

This appears to be the final report on the seminar, as the paper's 21 March edition does not promise any further reportage.

Jordan Bureau does not plan any further processing of the Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH.

ISRAEL

AIDS Statistics Supplied by Health Ministry

TA0404134694 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
4 Apr 94 p A10

[Report by Zohar Blumenkrantz]

[Text] There are 285 AIDS patients in Israel—259 men and 26 women. The number of HIV carriers stands at 1,134, including 784 men, 28 women, and 69 people of unverified gender [sentence as published]. This data was revealed by the Health Ministry in a message to be delivered at IPRA [preceding abbreviation in English], the International Public Relations Assembly, in Uruguay.

Hoof-and-Mouth Disease Reported in West Bank Villages

TA0504090194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
0800 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] Hoof-and-mouth disease has broken out among hundreds of livestock herds in villages in Samaria and in the Qalqilyah region. The Veterinary Service has ordered all kibbutzim and agricultural settlements in Israel to take precautionary measures and to prohibit outside vehicles from entering their farms.

In the villages near Qalqilyah, entire herds have died after contracting the disease. Over 200,000 animals in Samaria have been inoculated so far in a lightning vaccination drive. Our correspondent Shulamit Schmerling reports that Israeli farmers fear their herds will contract the disease, especially through transmission by deer in northern Israel.

NEPAL**Seasonal Diseases Claim Thirty-Five Lives**

BK0604141294 Hong Kong AFP in English 1308 GMT
6 Apr 94

[Text] Kathmandu, April 6 (AFP)—The seasonal diseases like meningitis and diarrhoea have claimed the lives of at least 35 people over the last week in Nepal, an official of the Public Health Office said Wednesday.

Of the 35, at least 21 died of diarrhoea in Pajaru, Jajarkot district, 300 kilometres (187 miles) northwest of here because of contaminated water, he said, adding a medical team had been sent to the area. [passage omitted]

"Similarly, fourteen children fell victim to the killer disease, meningitis in the Nepalese capital over the week," he said.

"People also fall victim to seasonal diseases during the monsoon season (May-August) in Nepal when they drink polluted flood waters," he said.

But a television report on the deaths of the children and those who fell ill due to meningitis, has panicked parents in Kathmandu who have rushed to private clinics to get vaccines, witnesses said.

The Infectious Diseases Control Department at a hospital in Kathmandu used to provide free anti-menengitis vaccines, but has now run out of stock, a doctor said.

Private clinics were charging about four dollars for a shot, he said, but added "people need not get panicked by the death rate because it is an average rate at this time of the season."

RUSSIA

Naval Medics Ill-Equipped, Many Draftees Unfit
*PM2303134594 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA
in Russian 23 Mar 94 p 3*

[Andrey Gavrilenko report: "Health Deteriorating, but No Increase in Medicine. Difficult Situation Developing With Medical Supplies for Pacific Fleet Servicemen"]

[Text] Vladivostok—Quite recently it used to be far safer going to military doctors for help than their civilian counterparts. Now when the health of the draft contingent is deteriorating every year the job of military medical staff is becoming more and more difficult. And not just because last year for instance the number of instances of scabies, tuberculosis, and diphtheria in the Pacific Fleet alone almost trebled.

In some garrison hospitals patients are already being placed in two-tier bunks. There is a catastrophic shortage of medical staff, who even in the past did not have the luxury of high wages. The supply of ambulances is just over half the required level and those that are still in operation are well and truly worn out.

According to Colonel (Medical Service) Nikolay Popov, chief of the Pacific Fleet main hospital, a sick serviceman today no longer has guarantees that he will be able to receive the full course of treatment he requires. At present for instance there are no broad-spectrum antibiotics, medicines to treat cerebral circulation disorders, and effective antiulcerative preparations. The medical equipment with which the fleet's medical establishments are equipped is by no means perfect. Above all there is a shortage of apparatus to study small vessels and the gastrointestinal tract, computerized tomographs, which enable early diagnosis, and much else besides.

At the same time, Colonel (Medical Service) Gennadiy Shokin, acting head of the Pacific Fleet Medical Service, said that the health of the young men turning up for service in the fleet is getting worse with every year. Thus, one in five new draftees is not fit for service among the seagoing personnel, one in six has circulation problems, one in seven has a gastric ulcer, and one in 10 has abused drugs before being drafted. Some 30 percent of future seamen are underweight and almost 20 percent are suffering from psychiatric disorders.

In 1993 around 400 young men who turned up for service in the Pacific Fleet were sent home before swearing the oath and almost as many seamen again were discharged on health grounds in the first three months of service.

If the prevailing situation is not put right, there will soon be simply no one to serve in the fleet.

Scientists Warn of Mycotoxins in Unharvested Grain Fields

*PM2403152594 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN
in Russian 24 Mar 94 p 2*

[Article by A. Sarkisov, academician of the Russian Academy of Agricultural Sciences: "The Scientists Warn.... The Grain Beneath the Snow May Be Poisonous"—first two paragraphs are editorial introduction]

[Excerpts] Two interdepartmental commissions of the Russian Security Council—on protecting the population's health, and on ecological safety—analyzed at a joint session on 9 March the alarming situation on the food market in the country, and drew the public's attention particularly to the danger which has arisen in many places of food products and feed grain being contaminated with mycotoxins, leading to the possibility of highly dangerous diseases in people and animals.

Professor A. Kh. Sarkisov, academician of the Russian Academy of Agricultural Sciences and founding father of mycotoxicology, tells us what mycotoxins are, how they can harm the health of people and animals, where and how they form, and how they could get into our food.

Sarkisov begins: Quite soon, the field work will begin throughout the country, and of course, the chief tasks are connected with the sowing. And here rural workers will come up against an unusual factor—the need first to clear the fields of sowings of grain crops which should have been harvested last fall. As is well known, these crops were left on millions of hectares—they disappeared under the snow.

Of course, this has happened before. In some years it cost the lives of many people and animals, before the causes of a new "unknown" disease were analyzed.

The land, especially its upper layer of cultivated soil, is a very complex living organism in which micro-organisms invisible to the naked eye—and there can be as many as 100 billion of them in a single cubic centimeter of soil—are actively participating in increasing its fertility. However, among them there are also microscopic fungi, most often types of fusarium, which have the capacity to infect grain which is left standing in the soil: They render it toxic to man and animals. [passage omitted]

The safe way to ensure protection against mycotoxicosis, as our past experience has shown, is to carry out the following obligatory measures. First, it is necessary in a short space of time to carry out, on the farm and for the rayon as a whole, a complete count of all areas with unharvested grain crops still on the root or in swathes, windrows, etc. Agricultural organs must be informed of the results of the count, and where infection of grain crops with toxic fusariums was noted earlier, the appropriate measures must be adopted. That means regions of the North Caucasus, the Volga (Tataria, Bashkiria [Bashkortostan], Mordovia, Udmurtsia), Siberia, the Orenburg region, the Urals, and Altay and Krasnoyarsk Krays, as

well as certain regions of Kazakhstan. The latest research has shown that 60 percent or more of wheat samples, even in Krasnodar Kray, contained mycotoxins. This was due to last year's weather conditions and the frequent precipitation. [passage omitted]

Moscow Threatened with Tuberculosis Epidemic

*LD0204190394 Moscow Radio Rossii Network
in Russian 1700 GMT 2 Apr 94*

[Excerpt] RIA was informed by the Moscow State Sanitary and Epidemiological Inspectorate that the capital might be facing the threat of a Tuberculosis epidemic in the near future. Last year about 3,000 persons with Tuberculosis were registered in the city. The medics are also worried by the fact that the number of cases with complicated forms of Tuberculosis has started to grow in Moscow.

The so-called high-risk groups consist first of all, of tramps, drunkards, and refugees who live mostly in the central part of the capital, at railway stations, in underground passes, and in other crowded areas. [passage omitted]

Reduction in Inoculations Leads to Increase in Disease

*LD0404110494 Moscow Russian Television Network
in Russian 0300 GMT 4 Apr 94*

[From the "Vesti" program]

[Text] The State Committee for Sanitary and Epidemiological Supervision reports that instances of diphtheria quadrupled in the first two months of this year compared to the same period of 1993. Rubella and whooping cough are up two and a half times. The main reason is a reduction in the number of inoculations carried out.

The number of severe intestinal infection and tuberculosis cases is also rising. The sanitary service has also recorded that instances of syphilis have more than doubled.

Moscow Ambulance Workers Strike

Workers Protest Reorganization
*94WE0207A Moscow MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA
in Russian 16 Jan 94 p 14*

[Article by I. Lipikhin under the "News" rubric: "Conflict at the Ambulance Service"]

[Text] A group of Ambulance Service workers has announced its intent to strike. Moscow residents know that this is not the first attempt of the people in the white coats to resort to extreme measures. Newspapers reported on conflict situations at the ambulance service two years ago. And what is the reason for today's discord? First, a portion of the collective has come out against the imminent reorganization of the ambulance

service and emergency medical service. Second, the ambulance service workers believe that their service is not receiving adequate attention from Moscow's government. Is this so?

In just nine months of the past year, the Main Medical Administration spent an additional 2.34 million rubles to increase the wages of the ambulance service's personnel, 8,856,000 rubles to insure the lives of the service's workers, and 84,811,000 rubles to feed them. Each worker sent on a call is provided with special clothing. And that costs nearly 100,000 rubles. The money was allocated systematically, beginning in January 1993 when the ruble "hovered" much higher than now.

By directive of Moscow's mayoralty, seven substations will be built in 1994-1995 in rayons of new construction, and an additional 13 substations and 4 base garages are slated to become operational by 1998.

Still unresolved is the question of supplying the ambulance service with vehicles. In the past 2 years, the motor vehicle combine of the Moscow Administration of Motor Medical Transport [Mosavtosantrans] received a total of 65 vehicles for the ambulance service. And that's what they got even though each year about 400 vehicles become unsuitable for operation. As a result, each day there are 160 to 200 vehicles out of service. Why has so critical a situation come about?

The problem is that the RAF [expansion not given] microbuses for the ambulance service are manufactured in the Baltics. They must be paid for in foreign exchange—and in no small amount. And according to specialists' estimates, they can serve a total of 4 years and 7 months. That is in theory. In practice, the little RAFs break down after 1 ½ or 2 years of operation.

To solve the problem of providing transport vehicles for the ambulance service, Moscow's government has sought the means to buy 220 Mercedes vehicles. Twenty of them are already in operation in the city, and beginning in February, another 10 vehicles will begin operating in Moscow every day. Furthermore, the matter of purchasing the medical version of the RAF microbus is not being decided.

But as far as strikes are concerned, no one has yet abolished the Criminal Code article regarding responsibility for failure to provide medical assistance.

Violation of Labor Law Alleged

*94WE0207B Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA
in Russian 27 Jan 94 p 2*

[Unattributed untitled article datelined Moscow under the "In Brief" rubric]

[Text] The capital's Ambulance Service has decided to strike. February 14 has been designated the day on which the strike will begin. The council of the service's labor collective made the respective announcement. It was noted in the announcement that on 25 January 1994

Anatoliy Solovyev, head of Moscow's Main Medical Administration, signed an order regarding reorganization of the Ambulance Service station. The announcement stated that this was done without the consent of the service's personnel and in violation of the law "Regarding the Procedure for Resolving Collective Labor Disagreements (Conflicts)." In accordance with Article 7 of the said law, a conference of the labor collective held on 14 February 1994 will decide the matter of the form and date of the beginning of the strike of the No. 03 Service in Moscow.

Strike Begins

94WE0207C Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA
in Russian 2 Mar 94 p 2

[Interfax article under the "Medicine" rubric: "Ambulance Service Has Begun Strike; Corpses Will Not Be Removed From the Streets"]

[Text] Yesterday a portion of the workers of Moscow's Ambulance Service began a strike. According to preliminary data, 10 riding teams of physicians at 8 ambulance service substations began a strike. At the same time, in the words of strike leader Leon Akopov, the strike included 10 substations of the 44 in operation in Moscow.

The main reason for the ambulance workers' strike is a disagreement between some of the workers and the Main Medical Administration over reorganization of the service. The strikers are also insisting that collective agreements be reached and are demanding the removal of Nikolay Pirotskiy, chief physician of Moscow's ambulance service.

The strike is occurring in the following form: A team will respond to patient calls, but they will only complete half of the medical chart for the patient. During the strike, ambulance service workers will not remove corpses from Moscow's streets either.

Krasnodar Kray Rayon Hit by Hog Cholera
PM1304102994 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA
in Russian 13 Apr 94 First Edition p 8

[Unattributed report: "Cholera Epidemic"]

[Text] Some 1,500 hogs have died of cholera at the "Industrialnyy" hog complex in Krasnodar Kray's Timashevskiy Rayon where 58,000 hogs are kept. Another 5,000 animals that have come into contact with the infected hogs have been sent to the meat combine for processing.

AZERBAIJAN

Azerbaijan Conducts Mass Vaccination of Children

94WE0186A Moscow TRUD in Russian 11 Feb 94 p 1

[Article by Tunzale Kasumova, Baku: "Scarce Vaccines"]

[Text] The mass vaccination of children under the age of 5 conducted by the republic's Ministry of Health with UN assistance is being completed in Azerbaijan.

Cases of poliomyelitis and diphtheria in the republic, which have become more frequent, represent one of the many sad signs of today. The system of compulsory vaccinations of children, which formerly was organized efficiently, like many other things, has collapsed. The catastrophic shortage of vaccines, which previously were received from Russia, and the presence of more than 1 million refugees are the reasons for this.

As we were told at the Main Administration of Sanitary and Epidemiological Supervision of the Ministry of Health of Azerbaijan, in the course of this campaign, already the second in succession, 900,000 children throughout the republic, not taking Baku into account, have received vaccinations against poliomyelitis, diphtheria, tetanus, and whooping cough. For this purpose more than 3,000 medical workers have been sent to refugee camps in all regions of Azerbaijan. The UN Children's Fund undertook to provide the necessary preparations and disposable syringes.

LATVIA

Number of Tuberculosis Cases in Latvia Increases
94WE0205A Riga DIENA in Latvian 5 Feb 94 p 8

[Article by Anda Mikelsone: "Number of Tuberculosis Cases in Latvia Increases"]

[Text] Riga, Feb. 4. There has been an increase in tuberculosis morbidity and mortality during the past year. In comparison with 1992, tuberculosis morbidity has increased by 14.8%, and mortality—by 44%. The total number of tuberculosis cases in 1993 was 868, while in 1992—it was 771.

Inta Pavlovskaya, director of the data processing and registry division of the State Tuberculosis and Lung Disease Center informed DIENA that the increase in tuberculosis morbidity could be related to the poor socioeconomic conditions in the nation, as well as shortcomings in the legislative process. At the present time, there are no laws in Latvia that would require infectious cases of tuberculosis to undergo mandatory treatment.

In November of the past year, the Department of Health of the Ministry of Welfare submitted a medical legislative proposal to the Cabinet of Ministers, which would

require infectious cases of tuberculosis to undergo mandatory treatment, explained I. Pavlovska. To this day, the proposal to the Cabinet of Ministers has still not been reviewed.

At present, Latvia has 11 state tuberculosis hospitals, providing treatment for tuberculosis cases free of charge. The newest of these—Ceplisi (in Ogre rayon), only started operations in January of this year. Most of the patients there, however, are chronic alcoholics who suffer from tuberculosis.

STD's, Skin Diseases, Pediculosis Increase

94WE0205B Riga RIGAS BALSS in Latvian 3 Feb 94
p 6

[Article by Antra Gabre: "Number of Syphilis Victims Increased Three-Fold"]

[Text] What an era! What morals!—What else can be said after hearing that a female employee of an intimacy club infected her two year old son with syphilis last year. In 1993, overall, according to data from the State Clinical Center for Skin Diseases (formerly the Skin and Venereal Disease Dispensary), in the course of everyday life, "thanks" to their parents, two children have developed gonorrhea and two syphilis.

According to the figures for last year, the morbidity rate increased three-fold for syphilis, 1.2 fold for gonorrhea, while the morbidity rate for fungal diseases increased 1.2 fold, and urogenital chlamydial infection was a common diagnosis. Furthermore, these are not absolute indices, only the registered cases, and many people seek the services of private medical firms for treatment of their venereal diseases.

A three-fold increase in syphilis is a very high index, and the prognosis by specialists at the center is that syphilis morbidity will not decline. In 1993, 45 per 100,000 inhabitants suffered from this disease in 1993 (in 1992, the respective number was 13), with the majority being women, and for gonorrhea—the respective number was 204 (153 in 1992), with the majority being men. In 1992, those suffering from venereal diseases were persons with a higher education, while last year, 69% of all patients had a mid-level education, 53%—from 20 to 29 years of age. Unfortunately, the statistics for last year show that even 13 to 14 year old girls have had to seek help from venereal disease specialists.

Children are primarily infected by fungal diseases—which are passed on to them by infected animals. There is quite a number of "wild" cats roaming the streets of Riga, and, therefore, parents should look out for their children. In comparison with 1992, the number of skin disease cases was lower for this past year. Deputy chief physician Dace Galvina explains this as related to the institution of patient fees, and the relocation of dermatologists to the State Clinical Center for Skin Diseases, the result of which is that patients from the outlying rayons of the city do not visit these specialists.

Likewise, lice infestation, or pediculosis, is becoming more widespread. Not only head lice, but also clothing lice have been observed. They are primarily being spread by vagrants, beggars and the very poor. In Riga, there are two locations where a person can be deloused—the bathhouse at 249 Brivbas Street and the Riga Disinfection Station—but because there is lack of means, not everyone can afford to pay for this service.

Dr. Galvina reminds us that during the first six months of this year, while the Center for Sexually Transmitted Diseases is being set up on Pernavas Street, patients may visit venereal disease specialists at the State Clinical Center for Skin Diseases.

DENMARK

Private Hospital System Seen in Crisis

94WE0175A Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE
SONDAG in Danish 6 Feb 94 p 12

[Article by Iver Hoj: "Private Hospitals in Financial Squeeze"]

[Text] More and more Danes are being treated at private hospitals. But it is not easy to make ends meet. There are too many beds for the small market.

The operations are successful, the patients survive and are satisfied, but the hospitals are in financial trouble.

Danish private hospitals have high medical standards and luxurious accommodations. Nevertheless, they continue to have big budget problems. The two largest private hospitals, as a consequence, have altered their course in the past few months.

Most recently, Mermaid, a private hospital in Ebeltoft, has cut its operating costs by 10 million kroner. The hospital has also convinced its creditors to cancel half of its outstanding debt and for a third time the hospital is out looking for new capital, this time, 10 to 12 million kronor. At the same time, the entire management has resigned and will be replaced in the spring.

A total of 200 million kronor has been lost on the hilltop above Ebeltoft since Mermaid opened its doors in 1989.

On the other hand, "Danmark" Health Insurance provides substantial payment for care in private hospitals. Administrative Director Preben Hentzen has a number of explanations for why there are so many problems with the industry:

"The number of beds in private hospitals is growing faster than the number of patients. It takes time for Danes to get used to paying for treatment," he stated matter-of-factly, and also pointed to the fact that patients from one county can get a new knee or a new hip at hospitals in another county and get treatment faster—for free.

There are about 200 beds in private hospitals in Denmark. The largest are Mermaid with 37 beds and Hamlet, a private hospital in Frederiksberg, with 33 beds. There are a number of smaller ones as well. An example of a successful one is Erichsen's Clinic in Charlottenlund, which is about to expand to 22 beds and is in good financial shape.

But an industry-watcher finds that private patients bring the hospitals earnings of only about 100 million kroner, when treatments for infertility are not figured in.

Coming In

Mermaid has a turnover of 70 to 80 million kroner. But a quarter of this comes from infertility treatments. The

hospital has also made an agreement with Frederiksberg County to perform a number of operations.

But it has not been enough. The debt to Realkredit Danmark has now been reduced from 110 million kroner to 60 million. That cuts the rent in half. The Kirkbi Corp., which owns the hospital's equipment, has also consented to reduce the hospital's leasing payments significantly. The staff has been reduced from 90 to 75.

All this has given Board Chairman Frank Bottrup confidence in the future:

"We had 11,000 to 12,000 patients in 1993 and turnover of 70 to 80 million kroner. We are experiencing a very slight rise in patient intake. If we maintain the same turnover, the books could balance—for the first time," he said.

But first he must find new management. Administrative Director Sten Christensen, the medical director, the head nurse, and a financial officer resigned after having put together and won approval for 10 million kroner in cutbacks.

"We have a promise of 5 to 6 million kroner of new capital. We are now looking for a corresponding sum. I would like to have it resolved by the end of this month. It would be overdramatizing it, however, to call it a race against time," said Bottrup.

Hoj: What has gone wrong?

Bottrup: The interest is there and the competition from the public sector is not the problem. But patients from abroad have never come. And earlier, "Danmark" paid 85 percent of the actual costs. Beginning in 1993, the fixed contribution was reduced so that now patients must pay 40 percent themselves. That brought Mermaid's turnover down to a new level.

Preben Hentzen of 'Danmark' said that it was necessary to change the regulations because there was too great a price differential from hospital to hospital, and that now it was working satisfactorily. But he cannot confirm that Mermaid is getting more patients. On the contrary:

"If the intake at Mermaid is rising, the patients cannot be members of 'Danmark.' In 1993, we paid out more for care at private hospitals than we did in 1992, but it was spread over a number of clinics. There were fewer patients at Mermaid who received insurance payments," said Hentzen, who felt that the Ebeltoft location was geographically unfortunate for a hospital:

"People do not want to travel to Mols for a service they could just as easily get in Copenhagen."

Hamlet

Hamlet, located in Frederiksberg, opened its doors in April of 1993 and presented new competition for Mermaid. At Hamlet they are also saying: "Next year."

The French-English concern, GHG, withdrew from ownership at the end of last year after a disappointing first year. The hospital is now owned solely by Danica and Rasmussen & Schiotz.

"January was not as bad as expected. February looks promising," said Hamlet administrative director Anne-Marie Traberg optimistically.

She is expecting a turnover of 50-60 million kroner this year. If this materializes, the hospital will expand next year and move closer to a time when the figures will move from red to black, which they will at about 70 million.

"Patients began to come in the fall and we expect about 5,000 patients this year. Danes are feeling increasingly confident about private hospitals and are starting to regard us as a natural part of the hospital community," she said.

FINLAND

Reduction in Reported HIV, Most STD's for 1993

Fifty-Six New HIV Cases

*94WE0191A Helsinki HUFVUDSTADSBLADET
in Swedish 11 Feb 94 p 1*

[Unattributed article: "Fifty-Six New HIV Cases"]

[Text] Fifty-six new cases of HIV were diagnosed in 1993. With 90 new cases in 1992 and 58 new cases in 1991 the development is going as expected.

"The industrialized nations have economic resources and medical competence and can control the spread of AIDS and HIV. Developing countries are poor and are unable to do so," noted Associate Professor Markku Loytonen.

Loytonen and Professor Pauli Leinikki of the Public Health Institute co-authored the book *Kaikki AIDSista /All About AIDS/*. Leinikki also stressed the problems developing countries struggle with when it comes to preventing the spread of HIV, as well as Finland's international responsibility.

"Finland should do more on the international level," he said and mentioned Norway as an example.

Norway has an organization for medicine in developing countries that uses state funds in its efforts to prevent the spread of AIDS in Africa.

Impact of Widespread Condom Use

*94WE0191B Helsinki HUFVUDSTADSBLADET
in Swedish 16 Feb 94 p 6*

[Unattributed article: "Campaign for Increased Condom Use To Reduce Number of Abortions"]

[Excerpts] Finland is in the vanguard as far as the number of abortions is concerned. Last year 9.7 abortions were performed per 1,000 women between the ages of 15 and 19, about half the number that were performed in the 1980's. In the United States the corresponding figure is five times higher. The goal of the Population and Family Welfare Federation's new campaign, which is aimed at ninth graders, is to cut the number of abortions in half again by the year 2000, and at the same time reducing the incidence of sexually transmitted diseases [STD's]. [passage omitted]

Condoms Accepted

Associate Professor Pekka Lahteenmaki, senior medical officer of the Family Welfare Federation's family planning clinic, feels that today's young people are increasingly accepting condoms as a contraceptive. Some 14 million condoms are used in Finland annually. [passage omitted]

Condoms are the only contraceptive method that also provide protection against sexually transmitted diseases. And the latest disease statistics show that cases of gonorrhea and syphilis have declined, while chlamydia has increased somewhat.

There were 575 HIV cases at the end of last year, of which 149 had developed AIDS, and 106 of these had died. Statistics are unavailable for condyloma and herpes. [passage omitted]

AIDS Situation Best in Western World

*94WE0191C Helsinki HUFVUDSTADSBLADET
in Swedish 21 Feb 94 p 1*

[Unattributed article: "Five Cases of HIV Infection in Pregnant Women"]

[Text] Five cases of infection were found in anonymous HIV tests at maternal counseling clinics last year. All pregnant women were tested.

No one knows who the infected women are. The tests were not provided with identification information. Around 65,000 tests were performed in all, the Public Health Institute disclosed in its publication.

Professor Pauli Leinikki of the Public Health Institute's HIV laboratory considers the number of cases that were found surprisingly high. In his opinion it shows how important it is to have an HIV test when visiting a clinic. However a test where the mother's identity is disclosed cannot be made against her will.

The AIDS situation in Finland is still the best in the western world, in the opinion of people at the Public Health Institute. According to preliminary reports only 56 new cases of HIV infection were recorded last year. That is clearly fewer than the year before.

Officials To Monitor Foreign Prostitution, STD Link

94P20632A Helsinki HUFVUDSTADSLADET p 5

Article by Nina Sergelius

[Editorial Report] According to an article on page 5 in Helsinki HUFVUDSTADSLADET by Nina Sergelius, authorities do not see any immediate need to act against the rapid increase in Helsinki street prostitution, but plan to monitor the situation closely, especially with respect to sexually transmitted diseases (STD) and AIDS. The Helsinki City Council asked the police, social service and public health officials to comment on the problem. One worrisome aspect they noted was the influx of prostitutes from Russia and Estonia over the last few years. The council accepted the argument from social workers that criminalizing prostitution would make especially alien prostitutes more reluctant to visit physicians, and that the whole problem of prostitution could be more effectively dealt with through "social policy measures."

Reduction in Venereal Disease Cases

Despite the appearance of open prostitution—something which was virtually nonexistent in postwar Finland until the current recession started in 1990—the STD incidence has steadily decreased. Statistics from the National Health Public Health Service, for example, show that registered gonorrhea cases declined from 645 in 1990 to 141 in 1993, and chalmydia cases from 2,150 in 1990 to 1,607 in 1993. What was remarkable to the author, however, was that 54 percent of those diagnosed with gonorrhea in 1993 had been infected abroad. The corresponding figure for 1990 was 15 percent. Of those who had been infected abroad, 39 percent had gotten the disease in Russia and 37 percent in Estonia.

The incidence of AIDS is continuing to increase. At the end of 1992 the HIV/AIDS treatment hospital in Helsinki had 180 HIV positive patients. By the end of last year this figure had risen to 211.

Given the inverse trend between Helsinki prostitution and STD's, however, the Public Health Service joined other offices in only adopting a policy of careful monitoring the situation.

GERMANY

Government To Reduce Funding for AIDS Education

AU1403171694 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German
14 Mar 94 p 16

[Unattributed report: "Zero Subsidies"]

[Text] Finance Minister Theo Waigel, Christian Social Union, wants to scrap federal financial support for AIDS

information. Under the Finance Ministry's medium-term financial plan, expenditures on information about the illness and its prevention is to be reduced from 20 million German marks [DM] this year to zero by 1997. The Federal Central Office for Health Information, which will have to disband its AIDS department, is not the only organization that will be affected by the Bonn savings program. German AIDS Help, an umbrella organization to which 130 AIDS groupings belong, will also experience financial difficulty. As federal funds are to be reduced to DM16 million next year and to DM11 million in 1996, Waigel's officials want to cut down on the information campaign in the new laender above all. The argument is that there are still not that many AIDS cases there.

D-2 Space Mission Produces Valuable Medical Findings

AU2603182094 Frankfurt/Main FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE in German 25 Mar 94 p 10

[["mha"-signed report: "Valuable Results of D-2 Mission"]]

[Excerpt] Bonn, 24 March—Approximately 11 months after the second German space lab mission D-2, not all results of the experiments that were carried out during the flight have been evaluated. However, the findings that have been obtained so far justify a positive balance sheet, the scientific leader of the project, Professor Sahm, stated on Thursday [24 March] in Bonn. Members of the German Agency for Space Matters (Dara) and of the German Research Institute for Aviation and Astronautics (DLR) announced the major results of the 10-day mission.

Sahm reported about the surprise finding that biological cells do not develop the usual box-shape form in a state of weightlessness, but that they take on a roundish shape, develop thinner cell walls, and that their energy consumption and metabolism drop clearly. This unexpected behavior must be investigated further.

The same applies to the measurement of so-called diffusion coefficients, that is physical quantities that are decisive for the mixing and separating of liquid substances. These characteristic values are indispensable for reliable computer simulations of such processes that make new developments possible. Yet new findings in the sphere of human medicine, including the discovery of a new kidney hormone, and new insights in the functioning of the lung have also contributed to the success of the D-2 mission. [passage omitted]

ITALY

Highest Number of 'AIDS-Infected' Babies in Europe

LD1204173894 Rome RAI Teletext in Italian
1545 GMT 12 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Italy has the highest number of AIDS-infected [as received] babies in Europe, with 397 cases reported

to present. This information comes from "The Italian Register of HIV Cases in Pediatrics," founded in 1985.

This was discussed at the "Biotechnology and AIDS" convention in Florence. The high number of pediatric cases is due to infection between drug addicts and among heterosexuals. HIV-positive mothers have given birth to 2,700 babies. [passage omitted]

UNITED KINGDOM

Meningitis Checks Keep Warship Out of Port
94WE02224 London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH
in English 7 Mar 94 p 8

[Article by Helen Nowicka]

[Text] Crew of the quarantined Royal Navy destroyer Liverpool are to undergo further medical checks this week after four of their number contracted viral meningitis.

The disease was diagnosed a week ago in two petty officers and an able seaman while the 3,500-ton ship was visiting Gibraltar. They were taken ashore and later flown home after hospital treatment. A second rating fell ill at sea and was airlifted to Lisbon on Tuesday.

Liverpool is at present anchored off Spithead, seven miles from Portsmouth, and has been ordered to remain there until Friday so that the health of the 280 crew can be monitored. A number of sailors suffered stomach upsets after leaving Gibraltar but preliminary tests suggest the illness has not spread beyond the four cases.

"Viral meningitis is not life-threatening, but we are taking all possible precautions," said a Navy spokeswoman.

Liverpool, which has only recently completed repairs to her hull and radar systems after an accident in Bahrain harbour last year, abandoned a planned visit to Norway and exercises in the North Atlantic to return home for the medical checks.

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